AN

HISTORY

OF THE

RISE, PROGRESS AND SUPPRESSION,

OF THE

REBELLION

IN THE

COUNTY OF WEXFORD,

IN THE YEAR 1798:

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,

THE AUTHOR's ACCOUNT OF HIS CAPTIVITY,

AND MERCIFUL DELIVERANCE.

BY GEORGE TAYLOR.

THE SECOND EDITION CORRECTED.

Illuſtrated with a View of the BRIDGE OF WEXFORD, and the Maſſacre which took place thereon, June 20th, 1798.

O God, the heathen are come into thine inheritance; thy holy temple have they defiled, and made Jeruſalem an heap of ſtones.

The dead bodies of thy ſervants have they given to be meat unto the fowls of the air, and the fleſh of thy ſaints unto the beaſts of the land.

Their blood have they ſhed like water on every ſide of Jeruſalem; and there was no man to bury them. Pſalm 79. ver. 1, 2, 3.

DUBLIN:

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1800.

DEDICATION.

TO THE

RIGHT HONORABLE GEORGE OGLE,

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,

FOR THE CITY OF DUBLIN,

ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONORABLE PRIVY COUNCIL,

AND COLONEL OF THAT TRULY PATRIOTIC

CORPS OF YEOMEN,

OGLE's LOYAL BLUES.

SIR,

FULLY convinced of the fatherly care with which you have watched over and ſupported our happy Conſtitution, in Church and State, with the moſt profound reſpect, I preſume to dedicate to you the following Sheets.

The obligations your Country is under to you, Sir, are better felt than deſcribed. In the Field and in the Senate, you have repeatedly proved yourſelf her ſteady friend, which

ſhould be recorded, that the children yet unborn may revere your name. May the ſame line of conduct guide all your ſteps! May your indefatigable labours be crowned with ſucceſs; and may that glorious Being, who reigneth over all, in due time tranſlate you from this world of woe, to thoſe bliſsful regions, where the inhabitants enjoy everlaſting delight!

So prays,

your moſt humble,

and moſt obedient Servant,

GEORGE TAYLOR.

Ballywalter,
Auguſt 1ſt, 1800.

PREFACE.

PREFACE.

HAVING had various opportunities of knowing the proceſs of the Rebellion in the County of Wexford; being alſo for ſome weeks a Priſoner among the Rebels, and ſeveral times during that period upon the verge of death; many of my friends requeſted, I would draw up a Hiſtory of ſaid Rebellion, as far as I knew. This I declined for various reaſons, but chiefly on account of my want of Talents for ſuch an undertaking. The repeated ſolicitations of my friends, and the aſſurance that a ſpurious Narrative of the Rebellion was to come out in my name, at length prevailed upon me, to make my appearance in this public manner.

In

In this undertaking, I have been much aſſiſted by ſome intelligent Perſons, who had much information on the ſubject. What I have here related, may be depended upon as matters of Fact—For I would not for any conſideration, knowingly advance an untruth, to extenuate the guilt, or aggravate the crime of friend or foe.

Notwithſtanding what I have ſaid, I doubt not but ſeveral things related in the following Narrative, may, to ſome Readers, appear not only *extraordinary*, but *incredible*; yet, they are not more extraordinary than true; which I can with ſafety aver, as many of them came within my own knowledge, the reſt I received from gentlemen of the ſtricteſt veracity, who will prove them if required—and I will add, that I have been ſo far from inventing Stories, that had I related all the circumſtances, to which

which I myſelf was witneſs, they would ſwell this Hiſtory much beyond its intended ſize.

I now with all humility ſend it forth into the world, hoping it may tend to ſhew, how much we are indebted to God, and how thankful we ought to be for that Conſtitution which affords us ſuch privileges, civil and religious.

AN

AN

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

Riſe, Progreſs & Suppreſſion,

OF THE

REBELLION

IN THE COUNTY OF WEXFORD,

In the Year 1798.

FOR ſome years previous to the late Rebellion of 1798, their were partial diſturbances in the county of Wexford, by certain bodies of men, who ſtyled themſelves, White-Boys, at other times, Steel-Boys, Oak-Boys, Right-Boys and Defenders; until at length they were all drawn into that great vortex *United Iriſh-men.* This being a general term, and their pretended view, only Reform in Parliament and Catholic Emancipation, attracted perſons of almoſt all perſuaſions, but chiefly thoſe of the Roman-catholic religion.

The White-Boys, who were the firſt diſturbers of this once peaceable county, made their appearance in the year 1774. Theſe being of the church of Rome, occaſioned for ſome time, a very ſerious alarm; but by the activity and perſeverance of the magiſtrates and many loyal inhabitants, they were ſoon quelled, and two of the ringleaders, viz. Owen Carrol, and John Daggan, being found guilty of ſome heinous offences, were executed near Newtown-barry, on the 28th of September, 1775. Their manner was to aſſemble in the night, dreſs themſelves in white ſhirts, which were thrown over their clothes, ſeize all the horſes the could, then ſet off full ſpeed, in great bodies to the deſtined place, perhaps the diſtance of ſeveral miles; dig up the paſtures, burn houſes, barns and ſtacks of corn, drag out the proctors, cut off their noſes and ears, horſe-whip them till juſt expiring, and ſometimes bury them alive; and all this to prevent their gathering the *tithes*.

Amongſt the ſpirited magiſtrates, whoſe exertions to preſerve tranquillity and good order at this alarming criſis, none ſtood more conſpicuous

conſpicuous than Iſaac Cornock, and the late Veſſey Colclough, Eſqrs.—Theſe gentlemen, by manly firmneſs, tempered with moderation and humanity, were at once the terror of the deſperate and incorrigible, and the conciliators of thoſe whom error and evil connections had led into exceſs; their efforts ſucceeded equally to their own honour, and the pacification of this extenſive and reſpectable county.

The diſturbances which prevailed at this time, and the want of military force in the country, gave riſe to the volunteer aſſociations, of which the county of Wexford is ſaid to be the birth place. From 1775 to 1781, many corps of volunteers, both cavalry and infantry were raiſed in the country—they appointed their officers, purchaſed their own uniforms, and with the aſſiſtance of perſons properly qualified, aſſembled regularly on parade, to acquire a knowledge of the military art. That upright ſenator, the Rt. Hon. George Ogle, one of the then repreſentatives in parliament for the county, was choſen general in chief of the county volunteers; the greateſt token of reſpect which then could be confered.—In 1781,

the volunteers of Ireland had arrived at the higheſt pitch of greatneſs;—their numbers amounting to 40,000 men! It was ſuſpected that the combined fleets of France and Spain were in the channel, and menaced the kingdom with immediate invaſion, which might have been attempted with ſucceſs, (the eſtabliſhed force of the nation having been called away on foreign ſervice) had not the volunteers from all quarters ſtepped forward, and offered their aſſiſtance to government. The fleets of the enemy, alarmed at our military preparations, beheld the banners of defiance, and fled precipitate from our coaſts. For this never-to-be forgotten ſervice, the following reſolutions of thanks were received from both houſes of parliament.

" *Martis*, 9 *die Octobris*, 1781.

" RESOLVED, nem. con. that the thanks " of this houſe be given to the volunteer corps " of this kingdom, for their exertions and " continuation; and particularly for their " ſpirited preparations againſt a late threatened " invaſion."

" THOMAS ELLIS,
" cler. parl. dom. com."

Die

Die Mercuri, 16*th Octobris*, 1781.

" RESOLVED, by the Lords ſpiritual and " temporal in parliament aſſembled, that the " thanks of this houſe be given to the ſeveral " volunteer corps of this kingdom, for the " continuation of their efforts in defence of " this country, and for their ſpirited offers to " government on the late alarm of an hoſtile " invaſion meditated againſt this kingdom."

W. WATTS. GAYER,
EDWARD GAYER, } cler. par.

In the year 1793, a body of men ſtyling themſelves Defenders, whoſe principles were inimical to the government, and whoſe practice was contrary to all law, made their appearance in this county, committed many outrages and occaſioned great uneaſineſs. The town of Wexford in particular, that year witneſſed the cruelty and treachery of thoſe public diſturbers, and the juſtice of heaven in their puniſhment. The following is an impartial account of that melancholy affair.

In the beginning of July, 1793, the town and vicinity of Enniſcorthy, were greatly alarmed

alarmed at their appearance, their numbers amounting to about 1000, armed with guns, pikes, &c. but thro' the activity of the neighbouring gentlemen, they were diſperſed, and two of the moſt active amongſt them were made priſoners, committed to Enniſcorthy caſtle, and the following day were tranſmitted, under a ſtrong guard, to the goal of Wexford. The Defenders, diſatisfied at the treatment their aſſociates had received, were determined to interpoſe, and reſcue them by force, if not ſurrendered freely. On the morning of the 11th, an anonymous letter was received by an inhabitant of Wexford, deſiring him to apply to the chief magiſtrate of the town, to have the priſoners releaſed; or in caſe of refuſal, a body of upwards of 3000 would arrive, and reduce the town to aſhes. This threat was taken little notice of; nor did the inhabitants appear in the leaſt alarmed, not imagining they would be ſo bold, as to make an attack on the town, which at that time was garriſoned by a detachment of the 56th regiment of infantry, commanded by Major Valotton, an officer of great merit, and amiable character,

ter, and who had been firſt aid-du-camp to gen. Elliot, at the ſiege of Gibraltar. About two o'clock the ſame day, an expreſs arrived, informing the magiſtrates that the Defenders were approaching, not more diſtant than a quarter of a mile from the town, and that they had retained as their priſoner and hoſtage, Lieutenant Buckby, who was quartered in Taghmon, and had been in Wexford that day alone, on military buſineſs. The alarm was now ſpread, and it was judged expedient to order out the military, at the ſight of whom, it was imagined they would diſperſe. Accordingly about 50 ſoldiers, with three magiſtrates, headed by the brave Valotton, marched out to meet the Defenders, who were now at the upper end of the town, on the great road leading to Taghmon, in number about 2000, armed with guns, pikes, ſcythes, &c. The humane diſpoſition of Major Valotton would not allow the military to act, without his firſt expoſtulating with the mob, and while he was in the act of harranguing them, and adviſing them to diſperſe quietly, and let the officer go to his command, one of the rebels

bels preſented a muſquet at him, which the Major parried off with his ſword, and for that time ſaved his life. As the piece went off, the Major attempted to ſeize the villain; and while he was engaged with him, another rebel, with a ſcythe faſtened on a pole, made a blow at the Major's head, which laid it open, and brought him to the ground; and at that inſtant he was ſtabbed with a pike in the thick part of his thigh, ſo deeply as to extend to the groin, and enter into the cavity of the abdomen. The ſoldiers ſeeing their beloved commander fall, fired without the order of the magiſtrates, and advancing on the rebels, put them to flight, after leaving nearly eighty of their aſſociates dead on the ſpot, beſides a number who afterwards died of the wounds they had received. Lieut. Buckby happily eſcaped, and in the confuſion, joined the military. Many of the Defenders were made priſoners, five of whom, James Kenny, Patrick Flannery, Patrick Neil, Michael Carty, and John Crawford, were found guilty at the following aſſizes, and within two days after they were executed.

The

The loyal inhabitants of Wexford were deeply affected with the tragical end of Major Valotton, and to ſhew their reſpect for his memory, erected a monument in the church, with the following inſcription, which I here inſert, not only to ſhew their love to that brave and humane man, but their determination to ſupport the laws of their country:

Sacred to the Memory of the late
CHARLES VALOTTON, Eſq.
A Major in the Army, and a Captain
in the 56 h Regt. of Infantry,
who in the Suburbs, on the 11th of July, 1793,
when zealouſly co-opperating with
the Civil Power, in ſuppore of the
mild and beneficent Laws of his Country,
received a mortal Wound from a ſavage
H A N D.
Thus untimely fell this accompliſhed Gentleman!
not leſs admired and beloved for every
SOCIAL QUALITY,
than he was eminently diſtinguiſhed on every
occaſion, by the enterpriſe and gallantry
of a Soldier.
Reader! lament with every good Man,
the irreparable Loſs,
and ſtrive to emulate his many Virtues.
THE CORPORATION OF WEXFORD,
with becoming Gratitude,
erected this
MONUMENT,
to perpetuate their high reſpect for his
ineſtimable Character.

The Defenders were headed that day by a man of a very reſolute and undaunted diſpoſition, named John Moore, a farmer, within a few miles of New-Roſs. This man, on the firſt fire from the military, had both his legs broken; yet ſo very zealous was he in the cauſe, that he fought on his ſtumps, till he was left alone, and was ſhot by the military. There was alſo a prieſt killed, in whoſe pocket were found the articles of the Popiſh faith.

As the corporation of Wexford erected a monument to the memory of Major Vallotton, ſo the friends of Moore, the rebel leader, raiſed a tomb in the grave yard of Carnagh, near New Roſs, to his memory, bearing the following inſcription:

Underneath this ſtone doth lie
The remains of that Noble Boy,
Who by his deeds and actions brave,
In Wexford his body was brought to the earth.
Now each Chriſtian for him ſhould pray.
And to Heaven ſtraight direct his way.
As on his oath that day in truſt did die.
'Its there he fought moſt manfully:

John Moore, ſon to James Moore, and Margaret White of Robin's-town, who was killed by the army 11th July, 1793, aged 22 years.

Lord have mercy on his ſoul.

After

After this eventful day, a meeting of the freeholders of the county was called by the high ſheriff, who formed themſelves into an aſſociation, and opened a ſubſcription for the purpoſe of offering rewards for the apprehenſion, and proſecuting to conviction, thoſe daring violaters of their country's peace. The Defenders were ſo diſheartened at the defeat of their aſſociates, and ſeeing that the loyal inhabitants were determined that the laws of the country ſhould not be trampled upon, that they never attempted afterwards to aſſemble in any number, tho' many felonious acts were afterwards committed.

About the latter part of the year 1797, it was diſcovered that the United Iriſhmen were carrying on their private meetings in this county, for the purpoſes already mentioned, * and to throw a better gloſs on their diabolical ſchemes, falſe rumours were circulated by the agents of the Iriſh Union, that the Orange-men were to riſe for the purpoſe of murdering all their catholic neighbours; when in fact there was no ſuch thing as an Orange aſſociation

* See page 7.

formed in the county of Wexford, until a few months after the ſuppreſſion of the rebellion, nor were there any Orange-men in the county at its breaking out, except a few in the towns where detachments of the North Cork regiment of militia were ſtationed. The magiſtrates and gentlemen of the county being alarmed at their proceedings, and dreading the conſequence, were unwearied in their exertions to fruſtrate their pernicious deſigns.

In the beginning of the year 1798, it was obſerved that the Roman-catholics were very much devoted to their chapels: every day maſs was celebrated throughout moſt parts of the country, whereas, formerly it was chiefly obſerved only on the Sabbath-day. The chapel of Ballycanow, was particularly well attended by a very numerous congregation, at both morning and evening prayers. Michael Murphy was officiating prieſt of that pariſh; a young man, ſtrongly made, and of a dark complexion, had been a few years reſident in the pariſh, and not long in holy orders, as the following letter of recommendation from the

the Rev. § James Caulfield, pariſh prieſt of New-Roſs, to Monſeiur Le' Abbe Glynn, Communaute des Irelandois, a Bourdeaux, in his favour will ſhew.

" Ross, October 23, 1785.

" Rev, Sir,

" The Rev. Michael Murphy, a ſubject of the Dioceſs, and ordained a prieſt laſt Whitſuntide, now bound for your city, for the purpoſe of proſecuting his ſtudies of Philoſophy and Theology, craves a line from me in his favour to you. I can only ſay, he is well recommended to me, as a ſober, regular, well behaved man, and if it is convenient to you, I ſhall eſteem your accommodating him for the above end. I believe he is the laſt of the ſet that applied to me, wherefore I hope I ſhall not have occaſion to trouble you again for ſome years.

I have the honor to be, &c.
JAMES CAULFIELD."

During

§ The above James Caulfield, is now the titular biſhop of the dioceſs of Ferns, and reſides in Wexford.

During Murphy's prieſtly office in Ballycanow, he behaved himſelf very well, and lived much in the eſteem of perſons of every perſuaſion, till the breaking out of the rebellion: he was a man of ſuch profound policy, as not to be ſuſpected of having any knowledge of their meetings and organization, till it burſt forth like a torrent, overwhelming our happy and delightful country with ruin.

About this time, ſeveral perſons were apprehended on the information of a man of the name of Cooper, for being ſworn United Iriſhmen, and were lodged in the county goal of Wexford; it was alſo diſcovered that the black-ſmiths were in the habit of manufacturing pikes for ſome time back; ſeveral were detected—one in particular, in the pariſh of Ballycanow, who acknowledged (on his being taken by Hawtry White, Eſq captain of the Ballaghkeene cavalry,) that he had been manufacturing them for upwards of a year before, without being ſuſpected.

The county was now very much alarmed, and the magiſtrates aſſembled in Wexford, Enniſcorthy

corthy and Gorey, to take into conſideration the moſt adviſeable means to prevent the ſtorm that was gathering over our heads.

The Earl of Mount Norris was very apprehenſive that the conſequences would be fatal; and being zealous for the peace, proſperity and welfare of the kingdom, rode, accompanied by ſome gentlemen, to the neighbouring chapels, at the time the congregations were aſſembled, and like a true friend to his country, expoſtulated with them on the unreaſonableneſs of their proceedings, exhorting them to allegiance, reproving and adviſing them. His Lordſhip pointed out to them the happineſs reſulting from the conſtitution under which they lived; that a man of any perſuaſion whatever, though his deſcent were ever ſo mean, who ſhould advance himſelf by any honeſt means into the world, and from nothing acquire abundance, would be protected by it, and that it was very wicked and ungrateful to attempt to deſtroy thoſe protectors of our perſons, rights and freedoms. That the laws of the realm protected the pooreſt cottager from the cruelties of a rich oppreſſor;

that

that there was no ſuch thing as wanton barbarity in our land. His Lordſhip entreated them to ſurrender the weapons of their rebellion, and invited them to come in and take the oath of allegiance; he propoſed to give them certificates of the ſame, and hoped they would return to their duty. They all ſeemed to be convinced, and ſeveral of the neighbouring pariſhes accordingly aſſembled, headed by their reſpective prieſts, and his Lordſhip adminiſtered to them the oath.

The pariſh of Bolavogue refuſed at firſt to comply, as the oath was found ſo ſtrict; but Lord Mount Norris being diſpleaſed with their refuſal, made uſe of ſome expreſſions, ſignifying, if they would not be perſuaded, and take the oath, he would have the country ſo ſtrongly defended, by quartering military in it, that they ſhould then demean themſelves as peaceable ſubjects through fear, if they would not now do it for love. This alarmed them, and they alſo conformed as the other pariſhes.

On the 19th of January, 1798, the Rev. Michael Murphy of the pariſh of Ballycanow, drew

drew up his men, and marched them along to take the oath of allegiance, when Lord Mount-Norris adminiſtered the following:

" I do hereby declare upon the Holy Evangeliſt, and as I hope to be ſaved through the merits of my Bleſſed Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, that I will be true and faithful to his Majeſty King George the Third, and to the ſucceſſion of his family to the throne; that I will ſupport and maintain the conſtitution as by law eſtabliſhed; that I am not a United Iriſhman, and that I never will take the United Iriſhman's oath; that I am bound by every obligation human and divine, to give all information in my power to prevent tumult and diſorder; that I will neither aid nor aſſiſt the enemies of my King, or my Country, and that I will give up all ſorts of arms in my poſſeſſion: all the above I voluntarily ſwear, ſo help me God and my Redeemer!"

This oath was printed and given to each perſon that was ſworn, and a certificate written on the bottom of it; which ran thus:

" The above oath was taken this 19th day of January, 1798, before me, by A. B. of Ballycanow pariſh."

" MOUNT NORRIS."

The different pariſhes were now perfectly ſecure, wrapped as in a mantle from all ſuſpicion, after taking ſuch a binding oath. They now became buſy in making every neceſſary preparation; in appointing their captains, lieutenants and ſerjeants; in procuring and concealing fire-arms and ammunition; in ſwearing ſuch as were not already initiated among them; in manufacturing pikes, and planning their different appointments. Timber was miſſing out of the gentlemen's nurſeries; it was obſerved the woods and ſhrubberies were gleaned of ſuch as would anſwer for the purpoſe of making pike-handles. This again alarmed the magiſtrates; it was too notorious not to be obſerved—the country wore ſo ſerious an appearance, that on application of the magiſtrates to government, 18 pariſhes were declared to be in a ſtate of inſurrection, and a proclamation was iſſued by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council to that effect.

In

In April 1798, the Lord Lieutenant, and Privy Council, iſſued another proclamation, declaring the entire county to be under martial law. Several perſons were apprehended in the neighbourhood of Arklow, Gorey, Blackwater, Enniſcorthy, Wexford, Roſs, Newtown-barry, &c. The whole county was now in a ſtate of diſturbance; many perſons being apprehended, were put into the county goal, and others detained in the different guard-houſes.

The ſeveral pariſhes again formed another cloak, to throw over their dark and deep deſigns, by making new profeſſions of loyalty, and drawing up and ſigning addreſſes; theſe they forwarded and preſented to the Lord Lieutenant; and ſo effectually did they ſucceed, by inſinuating themſelves into the good opinion of the government, that no military force was appointed to keep the peace of the county, but what was already ſtationed in it, namely, part of the North Cork militia, and the county yeomenry.

Tho' it would probably weary the reader, as well as ſwell this volume beyond its in-

tended ſize, to inſert all the addreſſes of the different pariſhes, yet it may be gratifying to many to ſee the nature of them; I ſhall therefore inſert one, from the pariſh of Ballycanow, which will enable the reader to form ſome idea of the reſt.

" At a general meeting of the Roman-catholic inhabitants of the pariſh of Ballycanow, in the chapel of Ballycanow, on Sunday the 1ſt of April, 1798, the following declarations of loyalty, were unanimouſly agreed to, and ordered to be forwarded to his Excellency Earl Camden, Lord Lieutenant, General and General Governor of Ireland.

" May it pleaſe your Excellency,

" We the Roman-catholic inhabitants of the pariſh of Ballycanow, in the county of Wexford, this day aſſembled at the chapel of Ballycanow, holding in abhorrence the barbarous outrages lately committed, and ſeditious conſpiracies now exiſting in this kingdom, by traitors and rebels, ſtyling themſelves United Iriſhmen, think it incumbent on us, thus publickly to avow and declare, our unalterable attachment and loyalty to our moſt

" revered

" revered and beloved Sovereign, King George the Third, and our determined reſolution to ſupport and maintain his rights and our happy Conſtitution. And we do further pledge ourſelves to co-operate with our Proteſtant brethren of this kingdom, in oppoſing to the utmoſt of our power any foreign or domeſtic enemy, who may dare to invade his Majeſty's dominions, or diſturb the peace and tranquillity of this country."

" Reſolved, that the above declaration be ſigned by our paſtor, the Rev. Michael Murphy, and a few of the principal pariſhioners; and that the ſame be ſent to the Right Hon. Earl Mount Norris, with a requeſt that his Lordſhip will tranſmit it to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant."

" Rev MICHAEL MURPHY,
COADJUTOR PRIEST."

James Kenny, Michael Connors,
Patrick Fortune, Thomas O' Neil,
John Murray, Peter Hughes,
Patrick Roche, John Beaghan,
Thomas Kelly, Anthony Roche,
Morgan Kavanagh, Michael Murphy,
Thomas Reynolds, James Dealy,

Clerk of the Day.

Lord

Lord Mount Norris having laid this declaration before the Lord Lieutenant, received the following anſwer:

"DUBLIN CASTLE, 16th of APRIL, 1798.

"MY LORD,

"I have the Lord Lieutenant's commands to take the earlieſt opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of the addreſs which was preſented to his Excellency, by your Lordſhip, from the Catholic inhabitants of the pariſh of Ballycanow.

"His Excellency commands me to expreſs to your Lordſhip the ſatisfaction with which he has received their addreſs, and his entire reliance of loyalty and zeal manifeſted by the perſons * who have ſubſcribed it.

"I have the honor to be, &c.

"CASTLEREAGH."

The following note from Lord Mount Norris to the Rev. Michael Murphy, on ſending him the anſwer to their addreſs, proves how much his Lordſhip muſt have been deceived by their declarations of loyalty:

* Theſe very perſons were more active than any in the pariſh during the rebellion!

"Lord

" Lord Mount Norris felt highly gratified by being employed to convey the addreſs of the Catholic inhabitants of Ballycanow to government, which was a ſtriking teſt of their attachment to the Conſtitution, and which from his perfect knowledge of their ſentiments, as well from the proof given by their oath of allegiance, he is convinced they are as anxious to ſupport the Conſtitution, as any other members of the community : ſhould occaſion require their aid, he means to call upon them, perſuaded of their anxiety to preſerve the public welfare."

April 27th, 1798.

But notwithſtanding this ſolemn oath and apparently loyal reſolutions, the Proteſtant part of the community had ſtill reaſon to fear. There was one circumſtance which weighed very much upon their minds, and put many of them upon their guard, and which for the ſatisfaction of the reader, I ſhall now relate. About this time a vaſt deal of red tape was bought from the different country ſhop-keepers, but the quantity in general called for,

was

was not more than half a yard; this was to be worn by the Roman-catholic children, both male and female round their necks; had it been black, and confined only to females, it would not have been noticed, as black tape or ribbon was frequently worn by the young girls, but ſo many people purchaſing this article, cauſed ſome enquiry, what uſe was all the red tape for? as all in the country was bought up, and more ordered from Dublin. The reſult of the enquiries was: a prieſt (more holy than the reſt) dreamed that there was to be a great plague among all children under 15 years old, belonging to their church! The plague was, that their brains were to boil out at the back of their heads. He alſo dreamed that there was a charm to prevent this bloody plague, which was, to get ſome red tape, and bring it to the prieſt to ſprinkle *holy water* on it, and bleſs it, and the children were to wear it round their necks, till the month of May; that then they might take it off, as it would be paſſed over and would not harm them.

This having tranſpired, prieſt Murphy was ſpoken to about it, by a friend of mine, who was

was in the habit of intimacy with him; being aſked if he had dreamed ſuch a thing? He declared he had not; yet acknowledged that he had ſeen the children wear it, but that he knew not the reaſon, and ſaid he would ſpeak publickly againſt it from the altar, next Sabbath; which he certainly did. My friend replied, he believed he might with propriety do ſo, as in his opinion the plague was in a meaſure allayed, the ſecret committee which ſat in Bridge-ſtreet, Dublin, being lately taken up by order of government, and hoped, that with God's help, it would be a great means of doing the expected plague entirely away. It appeared further unto him ſomewhat like a mark to know their own children by, as the blood of the Paſchal Lamb was to the Iſraelites, when the Angel of the Lord ſlew the firſt-born of the Egyptians.

How far my friend might be right in this conjecture, I ſhall not preſume to ſay, but leave my readers to judge. I here relate it to ſhew why the Proteſtants were beginning to be much alarmed, leſt they ſhould fall a ſacrifice to midnight aſſaſſination.

Notwithſtanding the dread which many loyal hearts laboured under, I could not be brought into the opinion, that a general maſſacre was intended, as I ſuppoſed no ſet of men in a chriſtian land, would be guilty of what I afterwards ſaw, and which ſhall be recorded in its proper place.

During the month of May, ſeveral pikes were diſcovered; it was alſo found that different ſmiths were employed in making more, inſomuch, that iron was prodigious dear, it being bought up for this purpoſe. Several United Iriſhmen were apprehended, and lodged in the different guard-houſes; the yeomenry corps were ordered upon permanent duty, and conſtantly patroled the roads during the night, to prevent the fatal conſequences that otherwiſe would enſue. Night and day they were on horſeback, both men and horſes underwent great duty and fatigue.

From the 20th of May, till Whitſunday the 27th, there were great alarms; ſeveral men were apprehended, and the yeomenry, by order of the magiſtrates, were under the diſ-

agreeable

agreeable neceſſity of flogging ſeveral, with intent to induce them to acknowledge where their murdering weapons were concealed. By this means, though painful to humane men, many pikes were taken up through the country: and many men who had been informed againſt, fled from their habitations.

On Thurſday the 24th of May, Anthony Perry, a gentleman of eaſy fortune, and lately lieutenant in the Coolgreny cavalry, was arreſted, and brought into Gorey. The country wore a threatning appearance, and rebellion, which ſat brooding in every corner of our peaceful county, now began to rear its hideous form; the gathering ſtorm which was thickening over us, ſeemed ready to burſt around, and diſpenſe death in a thouſand awful forms!

Saturday the 26th, Beauchamp Bagnal Harvey, a gentleman of large fortune and reſpectability in the county, Edward Fitzgerald of New-park, and John Colclough of Ballyteigue, were arreſted by an order from government, and lodged in Wexford goal. Now began

that devaſtation which this county never before experienced. The time arrived, when deſtruction and aſſaſſination (before maſked in ſacerdotal veſtment,) laid the forſworn robe of deep hypocriſy aſide, and ſtepped forth to drench the thirſt of diabolical paſſions in the blood of Proteſtants!

This night John Murphy, prieſt of Boolavogue, was the firſt that marched out to proclaim that "the hour of liberty had arrived." He aſſembled his deluded flock, whom before he had often harrangued in diſcourſes of ſedition from the altar—and led them on to wreak their vengeance on thoſe who oppoſed them in defence of their King and Conſtitution. While they were aſſembling, lieutenant Bookey, of the Camolin cavalry, a man of great bravery and conduct, rode that way, with only 17 or 18 of the troop. When they heard the horſes advancing, they repaired inſide of the road ditch, and lay in ambuſh: the lieutenant rode up, and called upon them to ſurrender their arms; on which they fired on the cavalry; it was inſtantly returned. They kept

kept up a ſmart fire, and a continual ſhower of ſtones, one of which ſtruck lieutenant Bookey, and diſmounted him, and in a ſhort time he was miſerably butchered; another of his men was ſhot, the remainder finding it impoſible to get through the hedge, ſeeing their danger in the road, and their officer ſlain, retreated to Ferns, leaving, as they afterwards heard, eight of the rebels dead on the ſpot.

The rebels now rejoiced in having put the cavalry to flight, and being ſpirited on by their holy commander, they ruſhed forward to Rockſpring, the reſidence of lieutenant Bookey, whom they had murdered a few minutes before, ſcreeching and howling, to gather the country people as they paſſed along.

The houſe was left in care of two Proteſtants, Jacob Ward and Samuel Hawkins, and five Papiſts, the domeſtics of the late lieutenant Bookey. About one o'clock in the morning, the rebels approached, near 400 in number: three of the Papiſts ſtole away; two joined the rebels, and left only the two Proteſtants, with four guns to defend the houſe. When the

rebels

rebels advanced, they called out for the arms of the houſe; the two Proteſtants told them they ſhould have them, and immediately diſcharged the four guns, loading and firing as quick as poſſible upon them. The rebels grew outrageous, ſurrounded the houſe, fired in at the windows, ſhouting and throwing ſtones, burſt open the door with a ſledge. They were heard to ſay, "come away before more of us are killed." When they entered the houſe, they lighted candles, and aſſembled in the hall; the two men above ſtairs ceaſed firing, and placed themſelves on the ſtairs to prevent their coming up. Prieſt Murphy ordered the men who held the candles to go up ſtairs, and ſee who were in the houſe; they refuſed. He inſtantly drew his ſword, and commanded them to go up, declaring in caſe of refuſal, "he would cut their heads off." At this they ran up quickly; when, on coming to the top they were inſtantly ſhot, and tumbled down on their companions. The rebels now became more outrageous, went into the kitchen and ſet the houſe on fire, then ſurrounded it, being determined not to let Ward or his companion eſcape.

eſcape. Others of them ſet ſome of the out-offices on fire: the two men above ſtairs with the moſt aſtoniſhing fortitude continued firing on the rebels, when they heard the floor under them crack, and preſently give way to the devouring flames. Ward and his companion juſt eſcaped to the upper ſtory, ſtill keeping up the fire, the rebels all the time ſhouting and throwing ſtones. When the under floor fell, the ſmoke and flames aſcended with ſuch violence, that thoſe two brave men were almoſt ſcorched with the heat and ſtifled with the columns of ſmoke. In this ſituation they were not able to fire, but their ſpirits were unſubdued, for Ward called to Hawkins to come to him, that they might die together, rather than yield to ſuch murderers. It was now near day, when a ſervant of Mr. Bookey's who had been ſick, but found means to crawl out when the houſe was firſt ſet on fire, told the rebels that it was better for them to withdraw before the day appeared, as the many ſhots muſt have alarmed the yeomenry, who would be guided by the houſe on fire, and perhaps ſurpriſe them. They, ſuppoſing from

Ward

Ward and Hawkins's not firing, that they were conſumed, thought the counſel good, and immediately marched off to capt. Cornick's, about half a mile diſtant, in ſearch of arms. When they were gone, the ſervant called to Ward and Hawkins to go through a window on the top of a ſtable, adjoining the dwelling-houſe, that was not on fire, which they did, and by the good providence of God juſt eſcaped with their lives, having been nearly ſuffocated!

The rebels then proceeded towards Oulard, ſhouting and whiſtling to gather the ſurrounding country; they alſo robbed and burned all the Proteſtant houſes in their way. In the morning (Whitſunday 27th May) they attacked the houſe of the Rev. Robt. Burrowes of Kyle, near Oulard, robbed it of arms, murdered him and five of his pariſhioners who had taken ſhelter in it, wounded his ſon and conſumed the dwelling-houſe. The rebels were now ordered to aſſemble at Ballynamonabeg, between Oulard and Wexford, when the country preſented a diſmal appearance;—the different

corps

corps of cavalry burning the rebels houſes on one ſide, while the rebels were conſuming the dwellings of the Proteſtants on the other.

A few troops of cavalry, viz. Gorey, Earl Courtown's; Ballaghkeene, capt. White; part of Camolin, lieut. Smith; Caſtletown, capt. Knox, and Coolgreny, capt. Beauman; purſued the rebels towards Wexford, and came in ſight of them at Ballynamonabeg, within ſix miles of Wexford: they were moving in two diviſions, one commanded by prieſt Murphy, and the other under the command of Edward Roache, of Garrylough, who was permanent ſerjeant in the Shilmalier cavalry, and had that morning, with 20 of 24 Papiſts, who were in the troop, deſerted to the rebels. There were now ſeveral thouſand rebels gathered—they flocked hourly from every part of the country to the rebel ſtandard. When they perceived the cavalry advancing, they opened to the right and left to receive them, and ſet up ſuch a peal of ſhouting and yelling, as ſurpaſſed any thing that can be conceived. Capt. White, and the other officers, ſeeing their great num-

bers, principally armed with fire-locks and pikes, judged it the moſt judicious way, not to ruſh on their innumerable weapons, but to return and provide a reinforcement ſufficient to engage them. The cavalry about 200, were badly provided with arms or ammunition, and the rebels ſome thouſands ſtrong. The different corps therefore retreated to Gorey the ſame day.

Another part of the Camolin cavalry, in ſcouring the other ſide of the country, were joined by Enniſcorthy cavalry, capt. Richards; Healthfield cavalry, capt. John Grogan, together with Scarawalſh infantry. Capt. Cornock, proceeding towards lieut. Bookey's houſe, ſaw him and John Donovan, one of his privates, dead in the road, their bodies mangled in a ſhocking manner: in the pocket of the former were found 75 guineas in gold, a guinea bank note, and his gold watch, which, together with his body, were ſent to his brother. Mr. Donovan's body was buried near where he fell. May their memory be dear to every lover of loyalty!

About the hour of ten o'clock another body of the rebels aſſembled between Newtownbarry and Ferns, to the amount of about 500, and attacked the houſe of Mr. Dawſon of Charles-fort, within 2 miles of Ferns; after plundering the houſe, wounding Mr. Dawſon and murdering a Proteſtant, of the name of Willis, they proceeded to the houſe of the Rev. Francis Turner, of Ballingale, rector of Edeermine, a gentleman of excellent character. He had but juſt baptized a child, when the rebels ſurrounded the houſe, in the moſt outrageous manner, ſhouting and huzzaing, and immediately ſet the out offices on fire. Mr. Turner looking out at the window, enquired what they wanted? on which they deſired him to ſurrender his arms, he refuſed to comply, and deſired them to depart from his houſe. On their perſiſting to demand his arms, he replied that he would never ſurrender them but with his life, on which they fired through all the windows: there were ſix or ſeven Proteſtants with him, who fled to his houſe for ſafety, and were now determined to defend themſelves to the laſt. For a conſiderable time they

made a very gallant reſiſtance, by inceſſantly firing out upon the rebels, who were now exaſperated to the moſt extravagant fury, and roaring like ſo many beaſts of prey During this great unequal conflict, Matthew Bulger, James Meagher, Denis Carty and another noted villain, with the greateſt deliberation waited till Mr. Turner came to the window to diſcharge his piece: the four levelled together, and blew off the ſide of his face. Other perſons within ſeeing him fall, ceaſed firing, and in the exceſs of their grief, neglected to defend themſelves. At this time Michael Keough (his own proctor, a man that always received from the family the moſt diſtinguiſhed marks of real eſteem, and was raiſed by them from poverty, to an eaſy comfortable way in the world) burſt through the back window, being followed by two others, and ſet the ſtudy on fire, while thoſe without, cut down the hall door, forced an entrance and ruſhed up ſtairs, where they found the unfortunate gentleman ſenſeleſs, and covered over with blood: they treated him with the moſt ſavage brutality, left him mangled to pieces, and burned the

houſe,

houſe, murdered nine of his Proteſtant neighbours, two of whom were the ſponſors, and one the father of the infant he baptized. Poor Mr Turner was conſumed in the houſe, there was nothing of him found after but his bones. His family, and the children of his brother, counſellor Turner, through the wonderful interpoſition of providence eſcaped.

The rebels now exulting in their cruelty, plundered and burned all the Proteſtant dwellings round the country, and took poſt on Sleugh-boy hills, where the Carnew yeomenry, under the command of capt. Wainright, and lieut. Bookey, (brother to the late lieut. Bookey) attacked them and diſperſed this body, which afterwards, aſſembled and joined the main body the ſame night on Corragrewa-hill.

All the Proteſtants of the country now gathered to theſe towns in which military were ſtationed, Roſs, Wexford, Enniſchorthy, Gorey, &c. Now anguiſh and terror were painted in every loyal face: in Gorey alone there were 2000 ſouls, who had left all their property behind, and taken ſhelter there, beſides the inhabitants

inhabitants of the town. The ſtreets were thronged with ſoldiers and yeomenry, the houſes with loyaliſts, and fire-locks ſtationed at the windows, every moment expecting an attack. The trumpets ſounding, and the drums beating to arms every half hour—all was melancholy and confuſion! From Roſs was ſent an expreſs to Waterford, and thence to Cork for a reinforcement. From Gorey, they ſent to Arklow, which arrived in the evening of Whitſunday.

After the yeomenry had retreated to Gorey, the rebels in Ballynamonabeg began their murders; they went to the houſe of Samuel Maud, near Ballynamonabeg, a fine old man, who had attained the great age of 96, piked him in the throat and various parts of the body, till they killed him!

The town of Wexford was greatly alarmed at the rebels being ſo near, the conſternation was inexpreſſible at their making ſuch deſtruction among the poor Proteſtants—the whole country was in a cloud of ſmoke. It was therefore judged neceſſary to ſend out a detachment

tachment of the military who were quartered in the town, to reconnoitre and diſperſe them if poſſible—formerly 20 diſciplined men would put to flight hundreds; but now they were ſworn and headed by their prieſts, who were determined to fight hard. Lieut. col. Foote, with major Lombard, captain D'Courcy, (brother to Lord Kinſale) lieut. Barry, lieut. D. Williams, lieut. Ware, and an enſign, with 130 of the North Cork militia, immediately proceeded from the town to engage the rebels, who were by this time on their march to Oulard-hill, where the lieut. col. and his men came up with them.

The rebels perceiving the army advancing, lay in ambuſh in the ditches, the major led them on to engage the body on the ſide of the hill, not ſuſpecting an ambuſcade; after firing a few rounds, he incautiouſly charged them, they were inſtantly ſurrounded by the body, and immediately cut to pieces; the lieut. col. and two privates only eſcaping. How ſhall I attempt to deſcribe the ſituation of Wexford, when the news arrived that the party

was

was cut off! The general diſtreſs and anguiſh! The ſcreeching of the ſoldiers wives and children, tearing their hair and beating their boſoms, incapable of conſolation, was melancholy beyond deſcription! In every part there was weeping and wailing! ſo that a friend of mine went up into her garret to avoid the crying in the ſtreet, but ſtill the diſmal groans of the widow and fatherleſs aſſailed her; nor did ſhe know the moment ſhe would fall a ſacrifice to her own ſervants who were papiſts. Miſs Donovan feeling for the diſtreſs of one of the ſoldiers wives, ordered her a bottle of wine, and giving her a few ſhillings, the poor woman lay down and inſtantly expired.

The rebels plundered the ſoldiers of all their powder and ball, and being now ſtrengthened with arms and ammunition, they marched to Carragrewa-hill, midway between Gorey and Enniſcorthy, where they encamped that night, their numbers continually encreaſing. Early the next morning, (28th May) they marched to Camolin, from thence to Ferns, plundering as they went along all the loyaliſts of arms

and

and ammunition. Becoming now very formidable, they marched for Enniſcorthy, and halted within one mile of the town, expecting that captain Snowe, of the North Cork militia, and the inhabitants, would ſend them propoſals for ſurrendering. Here we ſhall leave them, and take a view of the neighbourhood of Gorey.

Early in the morning, Earl Courtown, and the officers received intelligence of the defeat of the army at Oulard-hill; it alarmed them very much, being convinced, ſhould the rebels approach, they would not be able to ſtand againſt ſuch a torrent of oppoſers. Knowing alſo the ſtrength of Arklow, that they could not ſpare any more men, they judged it moſt prudent to march their forces thither, in order to ſtrengthen the town, till reinforcements ſhould arrive from other parts of the kingdom.

When the army began to march, they left ſeveral priſoners in the goal and guard-room, among whom was Mr. Perry; he was confined in a private houſe. They brought out three

or four priſoners, whom the yeomenry had taken the preceding day, with pikes, proceeding to join the rebels; theſe they ſhot in the ſtreet: they declared a little before they died, that ſome prieſts had inveigled them into the United buſineſs. Mr. Perry upon being liberated, headed the remainder of the priſoners with ſome rebels of the town, and marched to join the main body.

The inhabitants and country people ſeeing the army on the retreat, knew there was ſome weighty reaſon for it; they all followed, concluding the rebels were juſt at the town. It was a moſt diſtreſſing ſight to ſee ſo many quiet inoffenſive people, deſert their dwellings and flying for their lives before theſe murderers, to a people whom they knew not; numbers of whom were without food, or money to procure it.

When they arrived in Arklow, the ſoldiers were quartered in the barracks, the yeomen, and their families we received into houſes, but the poor country people *had not where to lay their heads*, for the houſes could not nearly contain

tain the fugitives, therefore many took up their abode in barns, and other out offices; many lay in the church-yard, having the ſilent grave for their pillow, while numbers lay in open fields and ditches, in a periſhing condition.

Gorey, though deſerted by the army, was ſtill in the poſſeſſion of the brave and reſolute John H. Gowan, Eſq. captain of the Wingfield cavalry, and a few of the Tinehaly yeomen infantry, (for whom he went when the army evacuated the town,) and who were determined they would not retreat, except overpowered by numbers. The yeomenry in Arklow, were diſſatisfied becauſe they were not permitted to return and aſſiſt captain Gowan; but on Tueſday, (29th May) an order arrived for them to march for Gorey, where they arrived that night, with 25 North Cork, 25 Antrim, and 20 Gorey infantry, under the command of captain Elliot of the Antrim militia.

We ſhall now return to Enniſcorthy—the rebels after halting ſome time, and perceiving no propoſals coming to them, marched to Ballyorial-hill, heard maſs from the celebrated

Prieſt Murphy, of Bolavogue, and from thence proceeded to ſtorm the town. It was defended by 50 North Cork militia, capt Snowe; Enniſcorthy cavalry, capt. Richards; Enniſcorthy infantry, capt. Pounden; and Scarawalſh infantry, capt. Cornick. This force was drawn to the upper end of the town to receive the enemy. The rebels began, by ſetting fire to the cabins outſide of the town, and driving before them droves of cattle, to annoy the army. The action commenced by a heavy diſcharge of muſquetry from the yeomen, and the loyaliſts, who were formed on the left of the yeomen. After a few well directed vollies, the rebels feigning to give way, crowded down and croſſed the Slaney, (which runs through the centre of the town to Wexford) above the bridge; this cauſed capt. Snowe to draw his men to the bridge to ſtop that paſs. By this time the yeomen were forced to retreat, from where the action commenced, with the loſs of about 30 horſe and foot killed and wounded, and about 10 loyaliſts. The rebels fluſhed with the preceding day's victory, followed on the attack in an unprecedented and ſavage manner,

manner, ſurrounding the town and ſetting it on fire; many of the rebel inhabitants ſet their own houſes on fire. The town being now in flames in every quarter, the diſaffected inhabitants taking advantage of the ſmoke, fired on the army and yeomen, from the lanes and corners of the ſtreets The ſituation of the army and loyaliſts was truly perilous; being likely to be overpowered by the rebels, they fled with many of the inhabitants through the flames to Wexford, in the greateſt diſorder, leaving (after an action of three hours) 350 of the rebels dead. Now parents deſerted their children, and children their parents, huſbands their wives, and wives their huſbands, never to meet more—for many of the yeomen and loyaliſts who were wounded, would probably have recovered, but they were murdered by the mercileſs pike-men; many more, whom the tender ties of nature cauſed to cling to their wives and children, hoped for mercy from ſome one neighbour or other; but alas! there was no ſuch thing! no mercy for any man who bore the name of *Proteſtant*, from the age of 15 and upwards! and ſome under that age

were

were put to death! The Rev. Samuel Haydon, rector of Ferns, a very old man, was murdered and thrown out to be devoured by ſwine; Richard Whealy, a lock-ſmith, near 100 years old, alſo fell a victim to their cruelty. The maſſacre became general as ſoon as they got poſſeſſion of the town: ſome were murdered in the act of giving them freely of their own liquor; witneſs, Edward Slye, was ſhot by his neighbour William Lee, while handing him a quart of beer— many were torn out of the arms of their wives and murdered before them in the moſt barbarous manner; nor would thoſe women be even permitted to bury their huſbands! Here now were hearts torn with ſorrow of the deepeſt kind; many a widow and fatherleſs orphan wept ſore, while ſmoke and flames, blood and ſlaughter, ſhouting and blaſphemy, triumphed in the deſolation of this town!

The army having, as before mentioned, retreated to Wexford, the poor women and children that fled with them, had hearts full of grief and ſorrow; great was the alarm in Wexford

Wexford when they arrived, and brought the diſmal tidings. They expected an immediate attack on Wexford; therefore every exertion was made for its defence: barriers were erected of wood and ſtone, in all the leading paſſes to the town: regular cavalry picquets patroled the roads, two or three miles out of the town, and all the loyaliſts volunteered to defend it. They were ſtationed at the different barriers with the Wexford infantry, capt. Jacob, and the Shelmalier infantry, capt. Rt. Hon. George Ogle; together with the North Cork militia, and they who retreated from Enniſcorthy. On this night the portcullis of Ferry Carrig-bridge was rendered impaſſable.

Fitzgerald and Colclough were taken out of the goal, and diſpatched to Enniſcorthy to diſſuade the rebels from their proceedings, and to preſerve the lives of the Proteſtants. Nothing could exceed the joy at Enniſcorthy on their arrival, and Fitzgerald was ſtiled by them *Lord Edward Fitzgerald.* John Murphy marſhalled his men, and led them up to Vinegar-hill, which riſes in the form of a cone,

and

and commands the town; here he diſplayed the rebel ſtandard and celebrated maſs, exhorted them to a ſteady loyalty, as the glorious *epoch* had arrived, to retrieve the ancient rights and freedoms, and ſhake off the intolerable yoke of *hereſy, and heretical government*, under which they had groaned ſo long. The ſame evening he formed their camp on this hill, and choſe himſelf, Fitzgerald and Edward Roche, of Garrylough, the principal commanders.

On Tueſday night, (29th May) they marched to the Three Rocks, within three miles of Wexford, on the Taghmon road, and Murphy carried a large crucifix before him on the ſaddle. During this day every preparation was making to receive them, and a detachment of 200 of the Donegal militia having arrived from New Geneva, under the command of colonel Maxwell, for the preſent revived the drooping ſpirits of the poor loyaliſts; they ſtrengthened the barriers, and planted their cannon in the moſt eligible manner. They alſo pulled down all the thatched houſes to prevent the diſaffected

diſaffected party from following the example of their aſſociates at Enniſcorthy; thus conſidering themſelves perfectly ſecure, they waited the arrival of the enemy.

Early on Wedneſday morning, the 30th of May, the picquet brought intelligence of the rebels being on the Three Rocks, and an account of gen. Fawcet, with the 13th regiment, being on their march from Waterford; this was comfortable, as the enemy was ſo near; but the 13th halted at Taghmon, with gen. Fawcet, and ſent a detachment of the Royal Meath militia, to the relief of Wexford, but to their great ſurpriſe, perceived the enemy had intercepted their march by their poſition on the Three Rocks; they were determined however not to retreat till they had proved their ſtrength, and boldly marching on to engage them with three howitzers, ſo tremendous a fire opened upon them from the rebels, as the party could neither withſtand nor return, the rebels being above 20,000, and the detachment but 96 men. The rebels poured down the rocks like a torrent, and taking the howitzers,

the ſoldiers made a precipitate retreat to Taghmon, with the loſs of about twenty taken priſoners and fifty killed; from thence they marched to Duncannon-fort.

In Wexford they thought it more adviſeable to march againſt the enemy, rather than let them approach the town; on which the Donegal militia, commanded by col. Maxwell, and three troops of cavalry, commanded by the brave col. Watſon, marched to the Three Rocks, not thinking the Royal Meath had yet arrived. They formed, and began the attack, when to their aſtoniſhment, it was returned with a heavy diſcharge of muſquetry, and the howitzers taken a little before. Knowing now it would be but a waſte of blood to continue the engagement, both from the number of the enemy, and their advantageous ſituation, they retreated in good order without any loſs, ſave one private, and the brave col. Watſon, who unfortunately fell in the action.

When they arrived in Wexford, they were doubtful, notwithſtanding their ſtrength, whether they ſhould be able to keep the town:

as the rebels were victorious every where, not being foiled in any action, it was no wonder they ſhould be in doubts; many of the Papiſts that were appointed to defend the barriers deſerted, and they had every thing to fear from thoſe in the town, ſhould they fire from the houſes as they did in Enniſcorthy. James Boyd, Eſq. member of Parliament for the borough of Wexford, and captain of the Wexford cavalry, Ebenezer Jacob, Eſq. captain of the Wexford infantry, and other officers held a council of war,* and conſulted whether they ſhould evacuate the town or defend it? After ſome deliberation, it was judged moſt prudent to evacuate the town. Captain Jacob coming to his poſt at the Weſt-gate, reported the matter, which cauſed many tears to be ſhed by his yeomen; he propoſed ſending ſome perſons to the rebel camp to ſurrender the town, provided the enemy would be honorable, and not deſtroy the perſons or property remaining therein; his firſt lieutenant (William Hughes, Eſq.) felt much on this ſubject, and aſked "what honor can be expected

* See Appendix.

" from rebels?" However, as there was no time to be loſt, counſellor Richards and his brother were diſpatched to the enemy with the terms. Thoſe gentlemen tied handkerchiefs round their hats, as a ſignal of truce, and calling at ſome cabins on the road, took ſeveral of the people with them to paſs them by the rebel centinels. When they arrived at the Three Rocks, and delivered their propoſal, (which was a verbal one,) they found themſelves in a very alarming ſituation; ſome were diſpoſed to hearken, others to murder them: They were obliged to promiſe, " that " all the cannon, arms and ammunition ſhould be delivered; on which they ſent Edward Fitzgerald and counſellor Richards to town, and detained his brother as a hoſtage till Fitzgerald ſhould return. When they came to town all the army were withdrawn, (except captain Jacob and his corps) and had taken all the military ſtores with them; this had like to have proved fatal to the two Mr. Richards. Some of the Wexford infantry threw their arms and ammunition into the river, leſt they ſhould fall into the hands of the

rebels. As the army were retreating to Duncannon Fort, they were attacked in many places by ſmall parties of rebels, who were going to join the main body ; theſe they put to flight, and killed many of them.

As the drums did not beat a retreat, the Wexford infantry were ignorant of what had paſſed, till the army had marched off. Several of the inhabitants fled with the army, others to the quay, and got on board of ſome ſhips, with intention to ſail for Wales ; the veſſels were crouded with men, women and children ; ſeveral happily eſcaped, but others were deceived by the perfidious owners, who ſteered up the river till the rebels had entered the town, and then brought them to ſhore. With broken hearts, they were obliged to return to their dwellings, to meet death with as much fortitude as they were capable of. In this diſtreſſing and diſmal manner was Wexford, when delivered up to the rebels. Such cowardice as they evinced on entering the town, (leſt they had heard a falſe report of the army retreating) was ridiculous; but as this

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is a matter of no moment, I paſs it over.—As ſoon as they took poſſeſſion of the town, they began to plunder and drink ſpirits, and ſome fell victims to their rage. Mr. John Boyd, brother to capt. Boyd, was murdered in a moſt ſavage manner; they had not charity to kill him at once, but let him linger all night on the bridge near the goal, bathed in his blood, writhing with pain, and unable to crawl under the ſhelter of a houſe; and notwithſtanding above 20,000 rebels were in the town, not one had the ſmalleſt commiſeration for his diſtreſs; but afterwards, one of them boaſted, "that in compaſſion, he knocked his brains out with a hatchet!" Thus ended the days of Mr. John Boyd, and thus was Wexford taken poſſeſſion of by the rebels on Wedneſday the 30th of May.

On the 31ſt, intending to wave the banners of rebellion far and near, their commanders led their men up to the Three Rocks; there formed them into three ſeparate bodies, one under B. B. Harvey, (who with the priſoners who were let out of confinement when the town was taken,) and Prieſt Philip Roche, of Poul-

Poulpearſey, deſtined to march againſt Roſs; another under the command of captain Doyle and capt. Redmond, from the Queen's-county, nephew to Prieſt Edward Redmond, of Ferns, who, with Prieſt Kearns, alſo went with this body to Vinegar-hill, to attack Newtown-Barry; and the third body was under the command of Anthony Perry, Prieſt Murphy, of Ballycanow, and Prieſt Murphy, of Boolavogue, deſtined to march againſt Gorey, each to commence an attack on the firſt of June.

Thus the rebel army was divided into three ſeparate bodies for the above end, and moved off the Three Rocks at the ſame time, for their different ſtations, ſure of victory from their numbers and ſucceſſes. B. B. Harvey marched to Taghmon, and was greatly reinforced from that quarter; he formed his camp on Carrigburn, which was head quarters. The body under Doyle, Redmond, Prieſts Redmond and Kearns, marched to Vinegar-hill, hundreds flocking to their ſtandard; and Prieſt Murphy led his men through Oulard, burning all the Proteſtant

* The pariſh prieſts did not in general attend the camps on duty, only at pleaſure, but they ſent their curates.

Proteſtant houſes along the road. It was agreed between him and Perry to make two diviſions of their men, one under Perry to encamp on Carragrewa-hill, on the night of the firſt of June, and Murphy to encamp on Ballymenane-hill, within two miles of Gorey, and wait the arrival of Perry, then with their united armies, to attack the town at dawn of day on the ſecond of June, in every direction. Here we ſhall leave them, and return to Vinegar-hill.

Early in the morning of the firſt of June, Vinegar-hill camp, amounting to near 14,000 men, after maſs was celebrated, and many prayers offered for their ſucceſs, were marched to Newtown-Barry, ſituated on the borders of the counties of Carlow and Wexford. It has all the beauty of art and nature; lies in a valley, ſurrounded on one ſide by the beautiful river Slaney, which riſes out of the mountains, near the Seven Churches, in the county of Wicklow, and taking a ſoutherly courſe, paſſing through the towns of Baltinglas, Ravilly, Tullow, Newtown-Barry and Enniſcorthy,

corthy, is loſt in the ſea, a ſmall diſtance below the town of Wexford. It is alſo ſurrounded on other ſides by hills, which command a moſt delightful view of the town and the adjacent country. The fine demeſne of John Maxwell Barry, Eſq. colonel of the Cavan militia, heightens the beauty of this little town: it has hill and vale, wood and water.

The yeomenry and ſoldiers here, were under ſevere and conſtant duty ſince the ſurrender of Enniſcorthy and Wexford. Their ſtrength was but very ſmall, to cope with ſo numerous and powerful an adverſary, being only 230 of the King's county militia, with two battalion guns, commanded by col. L'Eſtrange; 80 yeomen infantry, including 30 volunteers; 60 Newtown Barry cavalry, capt. Kerr; 20 of the 4th dragoons, and Carlow cavalry, capt. Cornewall, to oppoſe 10,000 men*, hitherto victorious every where they went.

The picquet who were reconnoitring, commanded by Capt. Kerr, brought intelligence

 about

* They always left a ſtrong force to maintain conqueſt in Enniſcorthy and Wexford.

about twelve o'clock, that the rebels were approaching the town in two columns, on each ſide of the Slaney. The army and yeomen were drawn up in a ſtrong poſition to receive them, and were determined on ſelling the victory as dear as poſſible. The rebels took their ſtation on a hill which commanded the town, and played on the army with a braſs ſix-pounder, a howitzer, and ſome ſhip-ſwivels, without doing the leaſt injury. Perceiving this, they made a rapid deſcent from the Slate-quarry and the hills adjoining, confident the town would be their own. Colonel L'Eſtrange, without firing on them with his battalion guns, drew his men out of the town, a mile up the road leading to Carlow, ordering the cavalry to cover his retreat.—The rebels entering the town, ſet the ſuburbs on fire, plundered the army's baggage, burſt open the cellars, and drank ſpirits in ſuch abundance, that becoming intoxicated, they ranged thro' the town, ſhouting and hallooing without any order. This confuſion was much increaſed by the loyaliſts firing from ſeveral of the houſes, againſt which they ſoon bent all

their

their fury. The yeomen, (thoſe ſaviours of their country, and the bulwark of the Iriſh nation, ever firm and ſteady to their king and happy conſtitution,) entreated colonel L'Eſtrange to return and attack them with his cannon, alledging, that as they were quite intoxicated, void of any order, and not expecting danger, they would ſoon be overpowered. He complied with their earneſt ſolicitations, and returning inſtantly to the town, gave them a few diſcharges of his cannon and muſquetry e'er they could form, which threw them into the greateſt confuſion. It was ſoon encreaſed by a fierce attack in all directions, headed by the gallant capt. Kerr, and the brave major Marley, who volunteered with the King's county militia. They charged them up the hills near four miles, taking down all before them, which would have been far more, but they ſcattered ſo much in their flight; however, they loſt near 250, without any loſs on the King's ſide, ſave one killed, and one of the Carlow cavalry wounded.

There were two car-loads of canniſter-ſhot taken, and a quantity of guns, pikes, &c. which they threw away in their flight: thoſe pikes were broken and burnt.

The praiſe of this victory is due to the yeomenry who refuſed retreating to Carlow. It was a victory of the utmoſt importance to the kingdom, as it prevented a junction with the Carlow and Kildare rebels, who were expecting to join them the following day, and revenge their defeat in Carlow on Friday the 25th of May before; for, had they gained Newtown Barry, all the county of Carlow and Kildare would have been in the poſſeſſion of the rebels, who could with eaſe, from their ſuperior numbers, penetrate into the interior of the King and Queen's county, or have joined the Colliery rebels. The drawing off the troops out of the town, was the loſs of ſome property; but it gave the army an opportunity of ſurpriſing the plunderers, and throwing them into confuſion. The conduct of both officers and men, on this memorable day,

day, was truly meritorious. The rebels, on their retreat to Vinegar-hill, burnt a great number of Proteſtants houſes.

It has been before obſerved that Prieſt Murphy, of Ballycanow, led his men through Oulard, conſiſting of about 1000, burning all the Proteſtants houſes along the road, and after filling the country with clouds of ſmoke, he arrived at Ballycanow on the 1ſt of June, where he celebrated maſs, and intended to remain there that day, encamp on Ballymenane-hill that night, and begin the attack on Gorey as before predetermined.

Captain Elliott was ſtill in Gorey with his handful of men, expecting reinforcements from Dublin, but none had yet arrived. The picquet having been out towards Ballycanow reconnoitring, brought in an account that the rebels were in poſſeſſion of that village, and that the body ſeem deſtined for Gorey; on which the drums beat to arms, the trumpets ſounded, and every preparation was made to meet them. Seventy-two infantry, commanded by capt. Elliott; Ballaghkeen cavalry,

capt.

capt. White; Camolin cavalry, lieut. Smith; and Gorey cavalry, lieutenant Woodroofe, marched out to meet the enemy. The rebel ſcouts deſcried them deſcending Ballymenane-hill, and formed in a field outſide the town ten deep; ſeveral hiding behind the ditches to fire on the army as they paſſed. Advancing about a mile, the rebels formed in the road, and opened a heavy fire of muſquetry; but it was returned with more execution, as a great number of the enemy fell. An inceſſant fire was kept up for almoſt an hour, when the rebels began to be diſmayed at ſeeing ſo many of their men fall, and perceiving the army ſtill approach in ſlow and regular order, without the loſs of a man, they broke and fled in all directions; the cavalry charged and cut them down without taking any priſoners.—There fell about 150 in this action, and ſeveral of the wounded lay in corn-fields, ditches, and meadows, being unable to go farther, where they expired; and the dogs of the country after ſome time carried their arms and legs from ditch to ditch, and from field to field.

After

After the action, the army entered Ballycanow, where they deſtroyed and burnt many houſes belonging to rebels. This little victorious army returned into Gorey, with above 100 horſes taken from the enemy, ſome guns, pikes, and two green ſtandards, without the loſs of a man. Thus were the rebels defeated in two actions on this day, and it prevented the aſſault on Gorey on the next, as was intended. The rebels retreated to Carragrewa-hill.

When Perry heard of Prieſt Murphy's defeat, he was determined to force Gorey, knowing if he could effect this, it would open a communication with the county of Wicklow rebels; therefore, on the next day, he ſent an expreſs to Vinegar-hill and Wexford for a reinforcement, as he thought it adviſeable for the two camps to form a junction and their united forces to operate againſt Gorey on Monday morning. Prieſt Kearns and Redmond adopted the plan, and 12 000 men were ſent to Carragrewa-hill the ſame night; Perry himſelf had near 8000. Though they

were

were now a formidable body, meſſengers were ſent through the country, deſiring every perſon to repair to camp. On the following day, (Sunday the 3d of June) all the people between Carragrewa and Wexford arrived, and along with them part of the Shelmalier cavalry well mounted, which had deſerted with Edward Roach, their permanent ſerjeant, on the Sunday before.

On the third of June, gen. Loftus arrived in Gorey with a conſiderable force, conſiſting of the Dunbarton fencibles, Londonderry and Armagh militia, the Tyrone and Suffolk light companies, a detachment of the Antrim militia, part of the Antient Briton fencible cavalry, with their commander, Sir Watkin Wynne, and the Arklow yeomen cavalry and infantry. Thus great preparations were making for the next morning.

On Monday the prieſts celebrated maſs on the hill, and made every preparation to march againſt Gorey, not knowing a reinforcement had arrived. They diſtributed ball-cartridge in abundance, and about ten o'clock proceeded for Gorey.

The

The military were drawn up in the ſtreet of Gorey very early in the morning, and about ten o'clock were marched out of town in two diviſions to ſurround the hill; not having a reconnoitring party out, they did not know the rebels were coming that way againſt them. General Loftus, with his diviſion kept to the left, with 1000 foot, two battalion guns, and ſome corps of yeomen cavalry, to ſurround the hill on one ſide; colonel Walpole turning to the right, marched through Clough, with 200 foot, three battalion guns, the Antient Britons, and a few corps of yeomen cavalry, to ſurround the hill on the other ſide. Thus they divided, and marched without an advanced guard, which in caſes of this kind ought not to be neglected, as it prevents the party being ſurpriſed by the enemy, till they are in readineſs to receive them, as the event of this day will fully prove. The advanced guard of the rebels, on perceiving colonel Walpole's diviſion meeting them, gallopped back with the intelligence; and prieſt John Murphy, who was commander in chief, being at the head, ordered them to halt, and

placing all the gun's men inſide of the ditches, drew up his cannon in the centre of the road, waiting the arrival of the army, being ſure of ſucceſs from their numbers, as they exceeded 20,000. The army ſtill advanced, apprehending no danger; but nothing could equal their aſtoniſhment, when the rebels ſtarted up around them on each ſide of the road, and opened on them a moſt tremendous fire of muſquetry under cover of the ditches. When the action began, Edward Fitzgerald was a mile behind; he inſtantly turned his horſe to the ditch, leaped into the fields, and rode to the front of the action, proclaiming as he paſſed along, "Now my boys, ſurround them, ſurround them!" The ſoldiers fought gallantly, and with their grape-ſhot killed above 100 of the enemy in the fields: but colonel Walpole fell early in the action; he received a ball in the thigh, and in a moment another through the head, by which means this brave ſoldier fell a victim to his own raſhneſs. The army now ſeeing their colonel fall, and the rebels ſurrounding them, fought retreating into Gorey, leſt the enemy ſhould intercept

intercept them, leaving behind their cannon, the horſes of which were killed, and with difficulty got off their baggage and ammunition carts. From thence they retreated without delay to Arklow, followed by men, women and children, who had returned. The rebels entered Gorey, and the ſame evening took their ſtation on Gorey-hill.

General Loftus had marched two miles when he heard the firing. He was accompanied by ſome yeomen who knew the country; they informed him they thought by the firing, the army was retreating into Gorey, but he expecting colonel Walpole would defeat them, proceeded on his route to intercept their retreat. Marching through Ballycanow, and taking a circuit of nine miles round to Gorey again, he found the army had retreated; and, arriving on the ſcene of action, he ſaw, what before he would not believe, the army defeated, and the body of colonel Walpole ſtripped to his ſhirt and flannel waiſtcoat, and about thirty of the ſoldiers mangled with the rebels pikes. None of the rebels

that were killed were lying there, as they were remarkable for carrying away the dead and wounded, leſt the army ſhould know how many were ſlain. Here general Loftus ordered many horſes to be ſhot that were in the fields, leſt the rebels ſhould get them again. When he came in view of the rebels on the hill, he halted. They fired two ſhots from their cannon, one of the balls fell within a few perches of the army: one of the yeomen alighted and took it up. They marched to Carnew, and from thence to Hacket's-town, in the county of Carlow.

The rebels, now ſecure of their conqueſt, began to dreſs food, having killed ſeveral fat cows, bullocks and ſheep; then began to plunder the town, carrying away all the goods furniture, and every thing of value they met with, to their own houſes. In the evening they all got intoxicated, and were lying in their camp, and the town incapable of defence; 100 ſoldiers might that night have deſtroyed them all. The following morning they iſſued a proclamation to the following effect:

effect: "Any one harbouring Proteſtants, and not bringing them to the camp, ſhall be ſhot and his houſe burned." They ſhot ſeveral Proteſtants whom they had taken in their different marches; and on Tueſday burned the elegant ſeats of the two Mr. Ram's and Mr. Gowan's, near Gorey—ſent parties into the country, haling in all the Proteſtants who had not eſcaped, and burning as they thought proper.

By this time my readers may wiſh to hear ſomething of the party deſtined for Roſs.

They marched from the Three Rocks on the 31ſt of May, and on the firſt of June, formed their camp on Carrig-burne; but the numbers that were flocking to them from every quarter, moſt fortunately prevented the attacking of Roſs on the day intended, imagining they would be invincible in a few days, Roſs, Duncannon-Fort, and Newtown-barry, being the only places in the county occupied by the loyaliſts. They halted on the above hill, and remained there

there till the fourth of June, during which time they plundered, robbed, or burned all the Proteſtants houſes in this part of the country, and ſent detachments of pikemen round the country, to ſeize on all the Proteſtants who were not ſo fortunate as to make their eſcape to ſome garriſon town.—They then took them to camp, and had them tried by their officers. On the firſt of June ſeveral being tried and condemned, were taken immediately a few yards from their tribunal and ſhot. After this day ſome were put into the houſe and barn of Mr. King, of Scullabogue, under the hill, and others were admitted into the rebel ranks. Many of the priſoners were brought from the pariſh of Old-Roſs, others from the neighbourhoods of Feathard and Tintern. On the firſt of June the church of Old-Roſs was burned.

On the morning of the fourth of June they marched from Carrig-burne, leaving a guard of about 300, with John Murphy, Nicholas Sweetman, and Walter Devereux, rebel captains; and on the evening of the ſame day took

took their ſtation on Corbet-hill, the ſeat of Edward Murphy, Eſq. within half a mile of Roſs. Here they got wine and ſpirits, and were in a ſtate of intoxication during the night, intending to attack the town early the enſuing morning with a force of 37,000, as nearly as could be judged!

Fortunately Lord Mountjoy, with the Dublin county militia from Cork, arrived in Roſs this evening, which greatly rejoiced the whole garriſon, whoſe actual ſtrength was at this time as follows:

Detachment of the 5th and 9th dragoons, commanded by captain Irvine.

Mid-Lothian fencible cavalry, lieutenant colonel Sir James Fowles.

Detachment of the Britiſh Horſe Artillery, captain Bloomfield.

Ditto Iriſh Flying Artillery, captain Thornhill.

4th flank battalion; lieutenant colonel Stewart, of the 89th regiment.

Detachments of the Royal Meath, Clare and Donegal regiments of militia.

Dublin county militia.

Roſs

Roſs yeomen cavalry and infantry, beſides ſmall parties belonging to country corps. Major general Johnſon, commander in chief. Major general Euſtace, ſecond in command.

Roſs is a conſiderable town on the Eaſtern bank of a large river bearing its own name, which is here very deep and over which an elegant wooden bridge, 730 feet long, and 40 feet broad, was erected in the year 1795, by Cox, the Boſtonian architect. The town lies at the bottom of a very ſteep hill, down which moſt of the roads into it are carried; it is not fortified—there are ſome remains of an old wall which formerly ſurrounded it, but it is now in a very ruinous ſtate.

In the evening the army picquet ſaw the rebels approaching, and taking poſſeſſion of Corbet-hill; they gave three cheers and diſcharged a field-piece at them; but as there were evening guns fired, the garriſon took no notice of it. The whole garriſon was drawn up on the quay, at the evening parade, when an expreſs arrived to gen. Johnſon, from the officer of the guard, that the rebels were approaching

proaching the town in great force. The whole brigade was directly marched off by general Johnſon, to meet them, but thinking it rather late in the evening to commence an attack, the army was poſted at the different paſſes, and a ſtrong guard being placed to watch the motions of the enemy, they ſtood under arms at their different ſtations till morning, obſerving the moſt profound ſilence.

In the morning, B. B. Harvey, held a council of war, when it was determined the moſt adviſable way to ſummon the town, expecting it would ſurrender as Wexford had done, and ſo become an eaſy conqueſt. He therefore diſpatched the following ſummons to major general Johnſon :

"SIR,

" As a friend to humanity, I requeſt you will ſurrender the town of New-Roſs to the Wexford forces, now aſſembled againſt it; your reſiſtance will but provoke rapine and plunder to the ruin of the innocent. Fluſhed with victory, the Wexford forces now inſurmountable and irreſiſtable, will not be

" controled if they meet with reſiſtance. To prevent the total ruin of all property in the town, I urge you to a ſpeedy ſurrender—a ſurrender which you will be forced to in a few hours, with loſs and bloodſhed; as you are ſurrounded on all ſides, your anſwer is required in a few hours. Citizen Furlong comes with this letter, and will bring the anſwer.

" I am Sir, &c. &c.

" B. B. HARVEY, M. G."

Camp, Corbet-hill, half paſt 3 o'clock,
Tueſday, 5th June, 1798.

When Furlong advanced to the guard with his flag of truce, he was ſhot, his pockets rifled, and the ſummons found and forwarded. The rebels ſpent the night firing cannon and muſquetry, and now and then huzzaing, to keep up their courage and animate each other.

The ſituation of the Dublin county militia was peculiarly diſtreſſing; they were nearly worn down by hard marching, enfeebled with hunger

hunger and thirſt, without time or means to refreſh themſelves, and in this condition had to oppoſe a cruel enemy. §

The advanced guard had ſo much curioſity, that a little after Furlong was killed, they crept under cover of the ditches to take a view of the rebel camp; their appearance was rather diſorderly, ſome were walking about, ſome ſinging ſongs, and others talking, but all apparently in a ſtate of intoxication. When they had in ſome meaſure ſatisfied their curioſity, they thought very bad of returning to their ſtation, without firing a few ſhots among them; four or five of them raiſing their pieces, gave them ſuch an unexpected volley, as cauſed them to ſtart up and look about, but they could ſee no one. Hundreds of them fired in every direction, but knew not at what, the ſoldiers having crept back unperceived. A meſſenger was inſtantly diſpatched to Harvey with information, that the army was ſurrounding them, that ſome of their men were killed, and others dying by the wounds

§ When they arrived at Roſs they had not time to partake of any refreſhment, but marched to meet the enemy.

wounds they had juſt received; on which he ordered them to pour forth on all ſides like a torrent, which they did, and were near intercepting a party of the Mid-Lothian cavalry, (which had been out reconnoitring) in their retreat into the town. Between three and four o'clock the battle commenced, the picquets and out-poſts, though drove into town, kept up a very ſmart fire on the enemy. I ſhall here inſert an account of the battle, which was delivered to me by a perſon who was an eye-witneſs, and on whoſe veracity I can with confidence depend.

" The rebels advanced, driving before them all the black cattle they could collect through the country, to diſorder our ranks; which was in ſome meaſure prevented, by a few diſcharges of grape ſhot. The action commenced by the 4th flank battalion; indeed ſuch a cloſe well directed fire I never before ſaw. I was an idle ſpectator for upwards of two hours and an half. Near 7 o' clock the army began to retreat in all directions. I had the honor to command a ſix-pounder

" field-piece.

" field-piece. The rebels pouring in like a flood, artillery was called for, and human blood began to flow down the ſtreet. Though hundreds were blown to pieces by our grape ſhot, yet thouſands behind them, being intoxicated with drinking during the night, and void of fear, ruſhed upon us. The cavalry were now ordered to make a charge through them, when a terrible carnage enſued ; they were cut down like graſs ; but the pike-men being called to the front, and our ſwords being too ſhort to reach them ; obliged our horſe to retreat, which put us in ſome confuſion. We kept up the action till about half paſt eight ; which was maintained with ſuch obſtinacy on both ſides, that it was doubtful who would keep the field. They then began to burn and deſtroy the town—it was on fire in many places in about 15 minutes. By this time the rebels advanced as far as the main-guard, where there was a moſt bloody conflict, with the aſſiſtance of two ſhip guns placed in the ſtreet, they killed a great number of them, and beat them back for ſome time. The Dublin county regiment, headed by their colonel, made another

" attack

"attack on the rebels; the action being now revived in all quarters of the town with double fury, many heroes fell, and among them the brave Mountjoy, * which ſo exaſperated his regiment, that they fought like furies—now indeed was the ſcene bloody. Our forces the third time being overpowered, by the weight of ſuch a body pouring down upon us, we retreated beyond the bridge, when general Johnſon came galloping up, crying "ſoldiers, I will lay my bones this day "in Roſs, will you let me lie alone?"

"Major Veſey of the Dublin county, the next in command to Lord Mountjoy, led his men over the bridge again, exhorting them to revenge, for the loſs of their colonel. The whole brigade (except ſome who fled to Waterford) being led on by general Johnſon, (as brave a commander as ever drew a ſword,) were determined to take the town, to conquer or to die. Again we opened a tremendous "fire

* This nobleman, when Luke Gardiner, Eſq. was the firſt perſon who introduced a bill into the Iriſh houſe of Commons for a repeal of the Popery Code, and unfortunately felt the bitter effects and inefficiency of his own ſyſtem of conciliation.——*Duigenan's Pamphlet.*

" fire on the rebels, which was as fiercely returned. We re-took the cannon which was taken from the King's forces in a former engagement, and turned them on the enemy. The gun I had the honour to command being called to the main-guard, ſhocking was it to ſee the dreadful carnage that was there, it continued for half an hour—it was obſtinate and bloody—the thundering of cannon ſhook the town, the very windows were ſhivered in pieces with the dreadful concuſſion; I believe there were 600 lying in the main-ſtreet—they would often come within a few yards of the guns. One fellow ran up, and taking off his hat and wig, thruſt them up the cannon's mouth, the length of his arm, calling to the reſt, " blood-an-ounds my boys come take her " now, ſhe's ſtopt, ſhe's ſtopt." The action was doubtful and bloody from four in the morning, till four in the evening, when they began to give way in all quarters, and ſhortly after fled with ſpeed in every direction, leaving behind them all their cannon, baggage, proviſions, and ſeveral hogſheads of wine, whiſkey, brandy, &c. which we ſpilled,

" leſt

"leſt they ſhould have been poiſoned. It was paſt five before we finally routed them. The computation of their dead, was, as near as I can furniſh you,

3400 buried,
62 car-fuls thrown into the river.
60 car-fuls taken away by the rebels.

Some of them have ſince acknowledged, that thoſe cars were brought to carry away the plunder of the town. In their flight, ſeveral dead bodies were thrown into the houſes which were on fire, and conſumed, ſo that it is almoſt impoſſible to aſcertain, but from every account that I can learn, 7000 rebels * loſt their lives on this day! I know ſoldiers that fired 120 rounds of ball, and I fired 21 rounds of canniſter-ſhot with the field-piece I commanded."

During the action, general Johnſon was ſtill in the hotteſt part of the fire—he had three horſes ſhot under him: if he ſaw any of the men

* Some imagine the numbers ſlain, did not amount to more than 2200, excluſive of numbers who crawled away from the battle, and afterwards died of their wounds.

men too forward, he would ride up and ſay, "brother ſoldier, ſtay till we all go together." He would encourage them that were behind. Being once in a hot fire, one of the ſoldiers called to him to remove out of that, or he would be ſlain; he waved his hand and replied, "That ball was never made by a rebel, that is "to kill general Johnſon."

Mr. Michael M'Cormick, an inhabitant of the town, fought that day, having on his head a brazen helmet; he was formerly a quarter-maſter in the 5th dragoons; his valour could not be exceeded—he rallied the men over and over during the engagement. Wherever a ſoldier would attempt to ſhelter himſelf from the heavy fire of the enemy, he would ſurely find him out, and drive him into the action again—he was every where; his conduct was truly praiſe-worthy. Before the battle began, all the inhabitants fled over the bridge, into the county of Kilkenny, except M'Cormick's wife, who ſtaid in town, and was employed during the battle mixing wine and water for the ſoldiers; which muſt have been very

grateful to them, being fatigued with hard fighting, alſo from the heat of the day, and of the town which was on fire in many places.

RETURN

Of the killed, wounded and miſſing of the Troops engaged at Roſs, on the 5th of June, 1798.

OFFICERS KILLED.

Colonel Lord Mountjoy, Dublin county militia—cornet Ladwell, 5th dragoons.

WOUNDED.

Major Vandelure, Clare militia.
Captain Sinclair, Donegal militia.

MISSING.

Captain Warburton and lieut. Flinter, Queen's county militia.
Lieut. Harford, Kilkenny militia.
Lieuts. Blake and Butler, 89th, attached to light battalion.
N. B. Quarter-maſter Hay, Mid-Lothian, killed.

PRIVATES.

PRIVATES.

5th dragoons.—1 ſerjeant, 26 rank and file, 26 horſes, killed; 1 rank and file, wounded; 1 ſerjeant, 3 rank and file, 2 horſes, miſſing.

9th dragoons.—4 rank and file, 5 horſes, killed; 1 trumpeter, 4 rank and file, wounded.

Mid-Lothian.—6 rank and file, 3 horſes, killed; 2 rank and file, 1 horſe, wounded; 1 horſe miſſing.

Roſs Cavalry.—1 rank and file, wounded.

Britiſh Horſe Artillery.—1 rank and file, 9 horſes, killed; 2 rank and file, 4 horſes, wounded; 1 rank and file, 1 horſe miſſing.

Iriſh Flying Artillery.—1 rank and file, 11 horſes, killed; 2 rank and file, wounded; 12 rank and file miſſing.

Fourth Flank Battalion.

North Mayo.—2 rank and file, wounded; 1 ſerjeant, 7 rank and file, miſſing.

Antrim.—4 rank and file, killed, 5 rank and file, wounded; 4 rank and file, miſſing.

Kilkenny.—1 rank and file, killed, 4 rank and file, miſſing.

Queen's county.—1 ſerjeant, 1 rank and file, killed; 6 rank and file, wounded; 6 rank and file, miſſing.

Clare.—1 ſerjeant, 1 drummer, 3 rank and file, killed; 2 rank and file, wounded, 10 rank and file, miſſing.

Royal Meath militia.—15 rank and file, killed; 9 rank and file, wounded; 10 rank and file, miſſing.

Clare militia.—9 rank and file, killed; 8 rank and file, wounded; 1 drummer, 5 rank and file, miſſing.

Donegal militia.—1 rank and file, killed; 6 rank and file, miſſing.

Dublin county militia.—1 ſerjeant, 2 drummers, 9 rank and file, killed; 14 rank and file, wounded; 1 drummer, 5 rank and file, miſſing.

Roſs Infantry.—1 rank and file, killed.

RETURN

Of Ordnance, Stores, &c. taken from the Rebels in the action of the 5th of June, 1798.

1 5½ inch howitzer on a ſhip carriage—1 braſs 6 pounder tied on a dray—1 iron 4 pounder

der on a ſhip carriage—1 Iron 3 pounder ditto—1 Iron 2 pounder ditto—14 Swivels variouſly mounted.—Total 19.

14 ſhot of different ſizes, a quantity of muſquets and other fire-arms, which were moſtly deſtroyed, and an immenſity of pikes, which were broken as ſoon as taken, alſo a variety of ſtandards and colours.

It was ſo late when the action was over, that the dead could not be buried. The next morning the town preſented an hideous ſcene: it lay in ruins—no ſuch thing as walking without climbing over the ſlain. The weather being exceſſive warm, and the unfortunate wretches in ſuch a perſpiration when killed, that, when they were dragging them to interment, the ſtench was intolerable: being ſo very filthy in themſelves, they looked horrible; their countenances alſo were writhed in a thouſand ugly forms; and as many of them died drunk and in wroth, they had a frightful appearance. There were thrown into one gravel-pit, nearly one thouſand of thoſe unfortunate men. The ſurvivors fled to Carrig-burne.

On ſearching the pockets of ſome of the ſlain, the following oath was found in them:

"I, A. B. do ſolemnly ſwear, by our Lord "Jeſus Chriſt, who ſuffered for us on the "croſs, and by the Bleſſed Virgin Mary, that "I will burn, deſtroy and murder, all here-"tics, up to my knees in blood.—So help me "God."

A few days after the battle, general Johnſon was honored with letters from his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and the Commander-in-chief, expreſſing their approbation of his conduct; of which the following are extracts:—

Dublin Caſtle, 10th June, 1798.

SIR,

I am deſirous of impreſſing you in the ſtrongeſt manner, with the ſatisfaction I have received from your able, ſpirited and judicious conduct of the 5th inſtant, when your poſt at New-Roſs, was attacked by ſo numerous and ſo formidable a body of rebels. The opinion I have formed of that conduct, is confirmed by the unanimous approbation of

of your brother officers. I ſhall not fail to lay before his Majeſty, theſe ſervices in the manner they deſerve; and I ſhall repreſent the aſſiſtance which you received from the zeal and abilities of Major General Euſtace in that action, as well as the general good conduct of the officers and men under your command, in ſuch terms as you have ſo fully authoriſed me to uſe.

I have the honor to remain,
Sir, &c, &c.
" CAMDEN."

Major Gen. Johnſon, &c.

P. S. I muſt entreat you to make known the grateful ſentiments I feel to thoſe officers whom you ſo particularly mention, as well as to the others, who made ſo gallant and ſucceſsful a defence.

" CAMDEN."

Dublin, June 9th, 1798.

My Dear General.

" It is with the moſt extreme ſatisfaction that I congratulate you on your

your late glorious victory over the rebels, which has rendered such essential service to the country, and gained the applause of every one. Your report of the behaviour of officers and soldiers under your command, does them the greatest credit, and will no doubt meet the entire approbation of his Majesty. If any thanks of mine can be thought worthy of their acceptance—I will beg of you to communicate them in the strongest manner possible; and believe me with the greatest esteem and respect,

Most truly your's,

" G. LAKE."

Major Gen. Johnson, &c, &c.

On the morning of the action at Ross, between the hours of five and six o'clock, one of the rebels that had fled from the battle, came galloping to Scollabogue-house, where 300 rebels were guarding the poor Protestants, which had been made prisoners. When he came within hearing, he shouted, " destroy the

the priſoners! deſtroy the priſoners! our friends are all cut off at Roſs!" John Murphy, who was captain of the rebel guard, told him they ſhould not, without written orders from the general. About an hour after another meſſenger arrived, proclaiming, "our friends are all deſtroyed, murder all the priſoners." Murphy made him the ſame anſwer. About ten o'clock, a third expreſs arrived, running on foot, crying, "the prieſt has ſent orders to put all the priſoners to death."

Immediately the rebel guard ſtripped off their coats, and prepared for murdering the priſoners, as deliberately as if going to their daily employment. After ſaying their uſual prayers, croſſing and bleſſing themſelves, they divided in two diviſions: one party to maſſacre thoſe in the dwelling-houſe, the other, thoſe that were confined in the barn. They hauled out 37 from the dwelling-houſe, and were ſhooting them, while the other diviſion ſurrounded the barn in the moſt outrageous manner, placed ladders againſt the walls to ſtand on, and ſet it on fire all round about. The

poor Proteſtants within, with the moſt lamentable cries, entreated for mercy, and preſſing forward to the back-door, caught hold of it, endeavouring to force their way out. The rebels however, crouding to that door, ſtabbed, cut, and mangled their hands in ſuch a dreadful manner, that for ſome time they were prevented. At length the weight of the people behind, preſſing upon their mangled friends in the front, made the door give way; but the mercileſs rebels, as the poor Proteſtants ruſhed out, thruſt them in again with their pikes, while others were buſy in tying bundles of ſtraw, and forcing them into the barn to increaſe the fire and the pains of thoſe innocent ſufferers. During the horrid ſcene, ſome of the rebels were loading and firing in upon them, while others were wantonly piercing their burning bodies through with their pikes. This was a mercy, though not intended as ſuch, as it put a ſpeedy period to their miſeries; or, if it was ſo intended, it only confirms the language of Scripture,—" the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel."

There

There was a woman in the barn, who had been wife to one of the North Cork militia, that was killed at Oulard-hill; ſhe finding no way to eſcape the flames, thought ſhe would, if poſſible, ſave her child. Accordingly ſhe wrapt her cloak about the infant, and threw it out of the barn; but one of the wretched pike-men, thruſt his pike through the helpleſs babe, and, giving a great ſhout, cried "d—n you, you little heretic, get in there!" and inſtantly flung it into the fire. Another child, about two years old, (whoſe parents had been either ſhot or burned,) crept unperceived under the corner of the door, and lay outſide the houſe, along the wall; when the confuſion had in ſome degree abated, the child was diſcovered—another rebel thruſting it thro', the child gave a violent ſhriek, and expired in dreadful convulſions. After they had finiſhed their bloody buſineſs at the barn, they haſtened to the dwelling-houſe, to make the tragedy more complete. Dead bodies were already ſtrewed round the lawn before the hall-door; others were on their knees crying for

mercy, but in vain: humanity had fled the place, and mercy was not known. Of 224 priſoners, 37 were ſhot, 184 burned to death, and only three, viz:—Richard Grandy, Loftus Frizzel, and — Lett, were ſuffered to live. Among thoſe unhappy victims, were 20 women and children.

The following liſt contains the names of many who ſuffered at Scollabogue; the remainder I have not been able to find out

Box, Joſhua *
Box, James *
Byron, Edward
Boyce, George *
Baſſit, Walter *
Brophy, John *
Crumpton, Samuel
Chamley, John
Caroline, James *
Cooke, Robert
Cruiſe, George
Cruiſe, David *
Carew, George *
Duffield, John *
Duffield, James *
Dalton, John
Dobbyn, Patrick
Dobbyn, Patrick
Davis, Richard
Dobbyn, Henry
Dobbyn, James
Dobbyn, William
Dobbyn, Patrick
Daly, Sarah
Daly, William
Daly, James
Engliſh, John
Eakins, James

Eakins,

Eakins, John
Field, Owen
Frannin, William
Finley, Holland
Gray, Andrew
Gray, William
Hannard, Joſhua
Hannard, Mary
Hurley, Edward
Johnſon, William‡
Kelly, Thomas *
Lewis, Richard *
Monk, Edmond
Monk, Francis
Miller, Robert *
Neil, William ‡
Neil, Daniel ‡
Power, James *
Power, Thomas *
Power, Oliver
Power, James
Pierſon, John *
Preſly, James *
Preſly, Anne *
Pyne, William
Pendergaſt, Pat ‡
Reel, William *
Rooke, Henry
Rillagh, Edward
Ryan, William‡
Reſtrick, Edward
Ryan, Elinor‡
Ryan, Mary‡
Simmons, Samuel
Simmons, William
Slye, Edward
Smyth, George *
Shee, Thomas ‡
Tweedy, John *
Trimble, John
Thomas, Anne
Uſher, Mary
Wilcock, John
Wade, James
Williams, Margaret
Younge, Elizabeth.

N. B.

N. B. On Saturday the 9th of June there were 184 ſkeletons cleared out of the barn, thrown into a ditch near the place, and ſlightly covered with clay.

Amongſt the foregoing, thoſe marked thus (‡) were Romaniſts. Thomas Shee and Patrick Pendergaſt were ſervants, who would not conſent to the maſſacre of their Proteſtant maſters, for which they were put into the barn, and ſuffered with them.—William Ryan had a daughter, who, for ſome time back, was a favourite with a gentleman in Duncannon: the rebels ſought for her, ſuppoſing ſhe would communicate every matter ſhe could learn of their affairs to this gentleman; but not finding her, they all agreed her ſiſter Elinor would be equally dangerous to their cauſe; they therefore marched her off to Scollabogue. Her father ſhortly after followed, to entreat the rebels to liberate her; they would not liſten to him, but thruſt him into the barn; his wife, a poor old woman being uneaſy at the long delay of her huſband and

and daughter, followed them; they put her alſo into the barn, where they all periſhed together.—William Johnſon was a very old man, and made out a livelihood by travelling about playing the bag-pipes, but unfortunately, among other tunes he was amuſing the rebels with, unthinkingly played the popular one of "Croppies lie down;" for which he was put into the barn and ſuffered. William Neil was a native of Camolin, in the county Wexford, and by trade a tailor; a few days prior to the breaking out of the rebellion, he went accompanied by his ſon Daniel, to ſee another ſon of his, who was employed as a tailor in the garriſon of Duncannon. On their return home, they were taken by the rebels, and having major general Fawcet's paſs in their pockets, they were ſhut up in the barn, and both periſhed. William and James Daly were very young lads, and ſons to Sarah Daly, but their being Proteſtants was the only charge alledged againſt them.

The following perſons with 16 more, were ſhot in the front of Scollabogue dwelling-houſe,

houſe, during the time the barn was in flames; all men of reſpectability.

Bell, Thomas*	Preſly, David *
Boyce, Samuel *	Parſlow, Thomas
Cottom, Samuel	Parſlow, John
Cottom, John	Reaſon, Henry
Eakins, William	Sleator, Thomas
Gifford, Milward	Thornton, Edward
Hornick, Philip	Turner, Samuel
Jones, Samuel	Vaughan, Miles *
Jones, John	Whitney, John
Moran, John	Whitney, Thomas
M'Donald, Thomas	

Thoſe perſons with a ſtar thus (*) after their names, throughout the whole, were brought from the village of Tintern to Scollabogue, in one drove, ſome of whom were very old, and ſcarcely able to walk; the diſtance between both places being about eight miles.

There were many perſons concerned in ſhooting the above unfortunate men, and each vied with the other who ſhould put the greateſt

greateſt number to death. Amongſt thoſe ſanguinary heroes, ſtand moſt noted the names of Fardy, Sinnott, Redmond, and Miſkella, who trampled on the wounded bodies, and behaved otherwiſe ſo bloody, as to obtain for themſelves the title of the "true born Romans." Fardy was ſince hanged at Scollabogue for various murders.

After ending this horrid maſſacre, they marched (exulting in their diabolical achievements,) towards New-Roſs; but the deſtroying angel had gone before them, and miſerably defeated that huge army in which they truſted, as has been related.

As they proceeded to reinforce their brother rebels, they met multitudes of the wounded returning, ſome crawling along as well as they could, others on horſes and on cars; they were ſhot through different parts of the body; ſome with broken arms, others with broken legs and thighs. Going on further they met the remnant of the main body retreating in the greateſt confuſion, hurry, and noiſe,

bringing with them cars full of the dead and wounded. They took their ſtation on Carrigburne that night, ſeveral ſtole home and never joined them more; particularly thoſe of Barony-Forth, who, though a race of cowards, were cruel in the extreme. The wounded were taken to Fookes's-mill, where they had ſeveral doctors taking care of them, but notwithſtanding all their attention numbers died. They had 13 milch cows grazing on Long-greague, the demeſne of Mr. Sutton, for their uſe, and they converted ſix houſes into hoſpitals.

The next morning Bagnel Harvey was in the greateſt anguiſh of mind, when he beheld Scollabogue houſe, eſpecially the barn, where the Proteſtants were in every attitude. Being ſo throng, ſeveral were ſtanding up againſt the walls, others lay in heaps in each others arms, among the aſhes of the timber of the houſe; their bodies looked frightful, being burned to a cinder. He turned from the ſcene with horror, wrung his hands; told them, "There were "as innocent people burned there as ever were "born, and their conqueſts for liberty were

"at

" at an end. "He ſpoke to a friend he happened to fall in with, of his own ſituation :—" I " ſee now my folly in embarking in this " cauſe with theſe people ; if they ſucceed, I " ſhall be murdered by them—if they are de- " feated, I ſhall be hanged." Seeing the ſanguinary mind they poſſeſſed, he was determined to put a ſtop to it, as far as in his power lay, and that day wrote the following proclamation, had it printed, and ſent many copies to Vinegar-hill, Wexford and Gorey, and diſtributed them through the county.

At a meeting of the General and ſeveral Officers of the United Army of the county of Wexford, the following Reſolutions have been agreed upon :

" RESOLVED, that the commander-in-chief ſhall ſend guards to certain baronies, for the purpoſe of bringing in all thoſe they ſhall find lurking and delaying at home or elſewhere ; and if any reſiſtance be given to thoſe guards ſo to be ſent by the commanding

officer's orders, it is desired and ordered that such persons so giving resistance, shall be liable to be put to death by the guards, who are to bear a commission for that purpose; and all such persons so to be found loitering and delaying at home, when brought in by the guards, shall be tried by a court-martial, appointed and chosen from amongst the commanders of all the different corps, and not to depart therefrom under pain of death, unless authorized to quit by written orders from the commander-in-chief for that purpose.

" It is also ordered, that a guard shall be kept at the rear of the different armies, with orders to shoot all persons who shall fly or desert from any engagement; and these orders to be taken notice of by all officers commanding such engagements.

" All men refusing to obey their superior officers, to be tried by a court-martial, and punished according to their sentence.

" It is also ordered, that all men who shall attempt to leave their respective quarters when they

they have been halted by the commander-in-chief, ſhall ſuffer death, unleſs they ſhall have leave from their officers for ſo doing.

" It is alſo ordered by the commander-in-chief, that all perſons who ſhall have ſtolen or taken away any horſes, ſhall immediatly bring in ſuch horſes to the camp at head-quarters; otherwiſe, any horſe that ſhall be ſeen or found in the poſſeſſion of any perſon to whom he does not belong, ſhall, on being convicted thereof, ſuffer death;* and any perſon or perſons, who ſhall take upon them to *kill* or *murder* any perſon or perſons, burn any houſe, or commit any plunder, without ſpecial written orders from the commander-in-chief, ſhall ſuffer death.

" By order of

" B. B. HARVEY, *Commander-in-chief*,

" FRANCIS BRIEN, *Sec. & Adjt.*"

Head-Quarters,
Carrig-burne Camp,
June, 6th, 1798.

All

* Rather the *thief* was to have been put to death.

All this day, Harvey was in the greateſt diſtreſs of mind, and could not avoid ſhewing his diſlike to the inhumanity of the prieſts, which they however ſoon reſented, by collecting their different flocks, and pointing out to them the impropriety of having a heretic for their commander; which ſo prejudiced them againſt him, that he was now in a critical ſituation. On the 7th of June, the whole camp removed from Carrig-burne to Slievequilter, within five miles of New-Roſs. Here prieſt Roche, of Poulpearſey, formerly of Gorey, had influence enough, to get Harvey depoſed of his generalſhip, and himſelf elected commander in chief. Indeed ſuch was Harvey's conduct, in conſequence of the cruelties inflicted on the priſoners, that the prieſts were apprehenſive if they did not exert themſelves, they would loſe their conſequence among the people; and having gained their wiſh in removing Harvey from the chief command, they ſtrenuouſly exhorted them to perſevere in their glorious work. Among thoſe eccleſiaſtics who appeared moſt zealous, was prieſt Murphy of Bannow; who, in a ſpeech after the battle of Roſs, delivered himſelf as follows:

"Brethren,

" Brethren, you ſee you are victorious every where : that the balls of the heretics fly about you without hurting you ; that few of you have fallen whilſt thouſands of the heretics are dead ; and the few that have fallen, was from deviating from our cauſe, and want of faith ; that this viſibly is the work of God, who is determined, that the heretics, who have reigned upwards of one hundred years, ſhould now be extirpated, and the true Catholic religion be eſtabliſhed." This prieſt frequently preached this doctrine to them.

Their new commander being determined to ſhine in a conſpicuous manner, collected ſeveral bullets, which, he aſſured them he had caught in the battle of Roſs, and diſtributed ſeveral to his brethren, when in the heat of action, who loaded their pieces with them ; and that this was what no other army could boaſt of. He would alſo he ſaid, give them ſuch goſpels to hang about their necks, as would make the perſon who wore it, proof againſt all the power of heretical artillery ; but that notwithſtanding their extraordinary utility to the Iriſh army, they would be of no

avail

avail unleſs they were purchaſed. The price to the better ſort of people, was half a crown; but as the poorer ſort were ſo zealous in their glorious cauſe, he would only aſk from them ſixpence a piece. Thouſands of them were made, which were ſpeedily ſent round the country.

An exact Copy of Prieſt Roach's *Protection*, or *Goſpel !!!*

IN THE *NAME OF* GOD,

AND OF THE *BLESSED* VIRGIN,

AMEN.

" No gun, piſtol, ſword, or any other of-
" fenſive weapon, can hurt or otherwiſe injure
" the perſon who has this paper in *his* poſ-
" ſeſſion; and it is earneſtly recommended to
" all women with child, to carry it, as it will
" be found an infallible preſervation againſt
" the fatality of child-bed."

No. 7601. "ROACH."

One of thoſe goſpels was taken from off the neck of John Hay, a rebel chief, who was executed at Wexford, a few days after it was retaken by the king's army—they were generally ſewed to a brown coloured tape.

While the rebels remained on Slieve-quilter, they committed ſeveral outrages on the perſons and property of the ſurrounding inhabitants, particularly on a reſpectable old gentleman, Francis Glaſcott, of Pill-town, Eſq.—This gentleman and Mr. Harvey, prior to the commencement of the rebellion, were on very intimate terms; on which Mr. Glaſcott, (who was totally ignorant of Harvey's being depoſed of his command in the rebel army) wrote to him, requeſting he would ſend him a protection. Mr. Harvey returned him the following anſwer:

"DEAR SIR,

"I received your letter, but what to do for you I know not; I from my heart wiſh to protect all property: I can ſcarce protect myſelf, and indeed my ſituation is much to be pitied and diſtreſſing to myſelf. I took

my preſent ſituation in hopes of doing good, and preventing miſchief: my truſt is in Providence. I acted always an honeſt diſintereſted part, and had the advice I gave ſometime ſince been taken, the preſent miſchief could never have ariſen. If I can retire to a private ſtation again, I will immediately. Mr. Tottenham's refuſing to ſpeak to the gentleman I ſent into Roſs, who was madly ſhot by the ſoldiers, was very unfortunate; it has ſet the people mad with rage, and there is no reſtraining them. The perſon I ſent in had private inſtructions to propoſe a reconciliation, but God knows where this buſineſs will end; but end how it may, the good men of both parties will be inevitably ruined.

"I am with reſpect,

"Dear Sir,

"Yours, &c. &c. &c.

"B. B. HARVEY."

Slieve-quilter,
June 9th, 1798.

Thus we may ſee Mr. Harvey was heartily tired of his ſituation. While the rebels remained on this hill, a party of them attacked his

his Majeſty's gun boat, the Louiſa, at Fiſher's-town, on her way with diſpatches from Waterford to Roſs, and killed Mr. Robert Hyland, the maſter of the boat, and three of the ſailors; and probably would have taken her, had not another bore up to her aſſiſtance, which enabled her to eſcape. They fired many ſhots at them with their great gun, by which a few cattle only were killed. On the 10th of June, the main body of the rebels left this, and encamped that evening on Lacken-hill, within two miles of Roſs, leaving a ſtrong guard at Slieve-quilter. On the morning of the 12th of June, a large body of the rebels from Lacken-hill camp, marched from thence to attack Borris, a ſmall town in the county of Carlow. The military ſtationed there were only a ſmall detachment of the Donegal regiment of militia, and the Borris yeomen, commanded by Walter Kavanagh, Eſq. whoſe elegant ſeat adjoining the town, ſerved as a barrack for thoſe troops. On the rebels approaching the town, an expreſs was ſent to Kilkenny for relief, but before major general Sir Charles Aſgil and 400 troops could arrive,

the rebels ſet the town on fire, and attacked Mr. Kavanagh's houſe, but were repulſed with ſome loſs, by the brave troops who were ſtationed there. Nothing could ſurpaſs the determined bravery of thoſe few men. The rebels effected their eſcape back to Lackenhill, where we ſhall leave them, and take a view of their conduct in Wexford, Vinegarhill and Gorey.

Wexford being the grand ſeat of rebellion, I ſhall begin here. No ſooner was Wexford in the hands of the rebels, than they began to reform the ſtate. The grand or *National Committee* was inſtantly formed, and alſo the *Council* of *Five-hundred* and *Council* of *Elders*, and the dwelling of Mr. John Cullimore, a reſpectable merchant, was converted into a Senate-houſe.

All the Proteſtants around the country, who did not eſcape when the army retreated, were arreſted and thrown into the goal. The prieſts and friars in town were buſily employed in baptizing the Proteſtant women, and ſuch of the men as were admitted into the rebel

bel ranks. They then gave them paſſes and protections, of which the following is a copy, given by Father John Broe, a friar, to a perſon whom he had baptized.

" I hereby certify that A. B. of C—in the " pariſh of D— has done his duty, and proved " himſelf a Catholic."

" F. JOHN BROE."

Wexford, June 21ſt, 1798.

This very prieſt was conſtantly in the goal baptizing; and after the battle of Roſs, made it his buſineſs to walk round the town of Wexford, ſeeking perſons able to carry a pike, to repair to camp; this is an undoubted fact. Baptizing the Heretics, was not confined to Wexford, it was common on Vinegar-hill, and through all the camps in the county. It was no more than a temporary protection while they were doubtful of their cauſe; for it is well known that even their proſelytes would have been put to death if they had

prevailed,

prevailed. The following protection was given by Bryan Murphy, * pariſh prieſt of Taghmon:

" Mr. A.—B.—has complied with every " condition required of him, and therefore is " to be ſtopped by no man."

" Rev. BRYAN MURPHY."

" *June 4th*, 1798."

In the barony of Forth, all the Proteſtants were ordered to the chapels to be baptized. Father Mun Stafford, pariſh prieſt of the Lady's iſland, uſually had a crowded congregation. Lady's iſland is greatly celebrated for its ancient ſanctity, by all of the popiſh perſuaſion in the kingdom; therefore they come on pilgrimage to it from all parts to do pennance, which conſiſts in going round the iſland three times, and repeating their prayers in the church-yard.

No ſooner had the rebel ſenate ſat, than they were determined on the deſtruction of ſuch

* There were 6 prieſts of the name of Murphy, in the county of Wexford, more or leſs concerned in the rebellion: Eadmus, Edward, James, Bryan, John and Michael.

ſuch as did not favour their cauſe. There was one Murphy, a Roman-catholic, who had been gardener to Mr. Edwards of Ballyhire, taken priſoner, and brought to Wexford; this man formerly witneſſed againſt one Dixon a prieſt, who was a notorious traitor, and who had been ſentenced to tranſportation, for adminiſtering the United oath to ſeveral perſons, before the rebellion broke out. This unfortunate man, was ſentenced to be ſhot, on Sunday the third of June, and ſuch was their deteſtation of him, that in order to encreaſe the ignominy of his death, they had him executed by Proteſtants, who were alſo priſoners in the goal. Middleton Robſon, a guager; Robert Pigott, a ſurveyor of exciſe, and Richard Julian, a guager, were the perſons appointed to execute the ſentence. After celebrating maſs and receiving their directions, Thomas Dixon, a near relation to the prieſt, was appointed to conduct this awful buſineſs. He was the moſt barbarous man to defenceleſs men, that ever exiſted, but a greater coward in battle could not be. He had the priſoner brought to the Bull-ring, and Mr. Robſon being

ing ordered to fire, the unfortunate man fell dead; when Dixon ran and thruſt his ſword in the back of his neck, then drawing it forth, held it up to the view of the mob, deſiring them to "Behold the blood of a traitor." At this time John Edwards, a Proteſtant, and land-ſteward to the above Mr. Edwards, was brought into the crowd to be murdered, but Dixon to ſhew his hatred to Murphy, "de-"clared upon his honour no other man ſhould "ſuffer that day." Robſon, Pigott, and Julian were compelled to drag the lifeleſs body to the quay and throw it into the river. Robſon and Edwards were maſſacred on Wexford-bridge the 20th of the ſame month, but the other two eſcaped.

Another man of the name of Murphy, a Papiſt, who had given information againſt ſome United Iriſhmen, was brought into town on Friday the 15th of June, and put into the condemned cell, where prieſt Broe viſited him. Mr. Pigott, on his coming into goal, being apprehenſive he ſhould be obliged to ſhoot him, ſent for William Kearney, who ſuper-

intended

intended the priſon, told him his fears, and requeſted he would acquaint the committee, that he would not be executioner for any deſcription of men—deſiring to be tried for any charge they had againſt him, as he would rather ſuffer death, than live on ſuch terms. Whereupon Jonas Gurley, a hatter, Kinnieth Matthews, toll-gatherer on the bridge, and Charles Jackſon, carver and gilder, three Proteſtants, and priſoners, were ordered to execute him. On Monday the 18th of June, he was led out for execution, and in the preſence of multitudes of unfeeling rebels, ſuffered on the other ſide of the bridge. The priſoners were remanded back to priſon, and on the 20th of June, Gurley and Matthews were maſſacred; the former on the bridge, being tortured with pikes, and the latter in the goal-yard. Jackſon fortunately eſcaped.

LIBERTY was written in large letters on moſt doors in Wexford, and many of the windows adorned with green branches. Every evening alſo, crowds flocked round the priſon door, demanding entrance, that they might

murder the Proteſtants, who they ſaid, eat up all the proviſions in town. William Kearney however behaved tolerable to the priſoners; Patrick Furlong alſo, who was ſuperintendant at the market-houſe, where were 48 priſoners, tho' he often reproached them for their heretical principles, gave them enough of potatoes, brown bread, and putrified meat. The goal and market-houſe not being ſufficient, the barrack alſo was converted into a priſon; for the number of male Proteſtants deſtined for the ſlaughter, amounted to 260! Matthew Keughe was appointed governor of Wexford.

It has been obſerved in the beginning of this hiſtory, that there was no military force in this county, ſave part of the North Cork militia, whoſe head quarters was at Wexford. Lord Kingſborough, who was colonel of the regiment, being in Dublin when the rebellion broke out, haſtened to join them, taking with him a reinforcement of the Dunbarton fencible infantry, with two battalion guns. On their coming to Bray, they were informed that the rebels were in force at Newtown-Mount-Kennedy,

Kennedy, in the county of Wicklow; they accordingly marched on there to attack them, which they did on the 30th of May, and defeated them, leaving a number killed on the field. Lord Kingſborough proceeded to Wicklow, and hearing there, that the communication from that to Wexford was totally ſtopped, he determined to wait for the Dunbarton fencibles, and ſend an expreſs by ſea to Wexford, to order the garriſon to hold out, and that he with a ſtrong reinforcement, would march to their aſſiſtance as ſpeedily as poſſible. Mr. Woodroofe, a Revenue officer, and a few other choſen men were ordered on this expedition, and embarked immediately. On coming into the harbour of Wexford, to their aſtoniſhment, they perceived the rebel flags flying in all parts of the town, it being in poſſeſſion of the inſurgents. The rebels manned one of their cruizers, and purſued Mr. Woodroofe and his companions, till they came in ſight of the Welſh coaſt, when they gave over the purſuit. Mr. Woodroofe and his companions with a great deal of trouble and fatigue got into Wicklow the next morning. Lord Kingſborough

came to Arklow, and not thinking the rebels had poſſeſſion of Wexford, took a fiſhing-boat there, and ſailing towards Wexford, was met by the cruizer that purſued Mr. Woodroofe, and taken priſoner. He was landed in Wexford; and ſo little did the rebels reſpect his rank, that they confined him in a common dram-ſhop, where he was daily expoſed to repeated inſults from the rabble.

On Sunday the 10th of June, the following proclamation, which was printed the day before, was read from the altar, and a moſt lively exhortation was delivered by Father Roche, chaplain to biſhop Caulfield; in which he told the pike-men, that they would be all murdered if they did not ſucceed, deſiring them at the ſame time to make no more proſelytes, as they could not be ſincere.

PROCLAMATION,

OF THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF WEXFORD.

"WHEREAS, it ſtands manifeſtly notorious, that James Boyd, Hawtry White, Hunter Gowan,

Gowan, and Archibald Hamilton Jacob, late magiſtrates of this county, have committed the moſt horrid acts of cruelty, violence and oppreſſion, againſt our peaceable and well affected countrymen: Now WE the People, aſſociated and united for the purpoſe of procuring our juſt rights, and being determined to protect the perſons and properties of thoſe of all religious perſuaſions who have not oppreſſed us, and who are willing with heart and hand to join our glorious cauſe, as well as to ſhew our marked diſapprobation and horror of the crimes of the above delinquents, do call on our countrymen at large, to uſe every exertion in their power to apprehend the bodies of the aforeſaid James Boyd, &c. &c. &c. and to ſecure and convey them to the goal of Wexford, to be brought before the *Tribunal* of the *People*."

"*Done at Wexford, this 9th day of June*, 1798."

"GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE."

The perſons mentioned in this proclamation, were gentlemen of reſpectable characters, and diſtinguiſhed

diſtinguiſhed loyalty, who had apprehended ſeveral United Iriſhmen, and lodged them in the county goal ſome time before the rebellion broke out, and for which they received the public thanks of the county.

The rebels now made no ſecret of their United Oaths. The following were printed by order of the council, for directing the affairs of the people of the county of Wexford.

Oaths to be taken by the United Army in the moſt public and ſolemn manner.

TEST OATH.

" I, A. B.—do voluntarily declare, that I will perſevere in endeavouring to form a brotherhood of affection among Iriſhmen of every religious perſuaſion; and that I will alſo perſevere in my endeavours to obtain an equal, full and adequate repreſentation of all the people of Ireland. I do further declare that neither hopes, fears, rewards or puniſhments, ſhall ever induce me directly, or indirectly, to inform on, or give evidence againſt any

any member or members of this or ſimilar ſocieties, for any act or expreſſion of theirs, done or made collectively or individually, in or out of this ſociety, in purſuance of the ſpirit of this obligation."

"So help me God."

PRIVATE's OATH.

"I, A. B.—do ſolemnly and ſincerely ſwear, and take God and his only Son our Lord Jeſus Chriſt to witneſs, that I will at all times be obedient to the commands of my officers; that I am ready to lay down my life for the good of my country; that I have an averſion to plunder, and to the ſpilling of innocent blood; that I will fight courageouſly in the field, and have mercy where it can be given; that I will avoid drunkenneſs, as tending to diſorder and ruin; that I will endeavour to make as many friends and as few enemies as poſſible; that above all I deteſt cowardice, and that I will look upon him as an enemy, who will ſtand back in the time of battle."

"So help me God."

OFFICER's

OFFICER's OATH.

"In the awful Preſence of God, who knows the hearts and thoughts of all men, and calling my country to witneſs, I, A. B.—officer in the——do ſolemnly ſwear, that I do not conſider my life my own, when my country demands it; that I conſider the preſent moment calls for a proof of the ſincerity of that ſentiment, and I am ready and deſirous to ſtand the teſt, and do aver, that I am determined to die or lead to victory; and that all my actions ſhall be directed to the proſperity of the common cauſe, uninfluenced by any inferior motive; and I further declare my utter averſion to all alarmiſts, union-breakers, and cowards, and my reſpect and obedience to the commands of my ſuperior officers."

"So help me God."

"*Done at the Council-chamber in Wexford,*
"*June* 14*th*, 1798.

"BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL,
"B. B. HARVEY, *Preſident.*
"NICHOLAS GRAY, *Secretary.*"

It

It appears by the above publication, that Mr. Harvey ſat as preſident, after he was depoſed of his command.

There was another oath taken by the Papiſts, which the diſaffected Proteſtants and Preſbyterians, knew nothing of; this was called the *Black Teſt*, and was as follows:

"Every loyal Iriſh Proteſtant Heretic, I ſhall murder, and this I ſwear."

Such as bound themſelves under this oath, had a paſs-word, by which they knew each other any where they ſhould meet. This paſs-word was the initials of the ſeveral words in the oath, and no individual knew this but ſuch as were ſworn. "*Eliphiſmatis*" was the paſs-word.

At Gorey the rebels had a ſurpriſing large camp, from whence they made various excurſions through the country in ſearch of Proteſtants, whom on diſcovery, they forced from their homes, and confined in the aſſembly-room over the market-houſe. In this religious hunt, there was no reſpect paid to old

age: among many of this deſcription were William Bryan of Coolook, near Ballycanow, aged 70, and William Atkins, of Curraclough, near Wexford, aged 80. Such of the Proteſtants as could eſcape, availed themſelves of the opportunity, and fled from various parts to the fortified towns. Arklow gave ſhelter to hundreds of theſe poor refugees, and the town of Wicklow to no leſs than one thouſand and ſixty! Many who could not leave their families were in a pitiable ſituation; day after day were the men torn from the arms of their beloved wives and children, or diſtracted mothers and ſiſters, and murdered before them. The widow Carley, near Caſtle-bridge, and the widow Grindly, near Kilmuckridge, are woeful witneſſes of this melancholy truth.

While the camp continued at Gorey, all manner of abominations were committed in it; and as it ſwarmed with women of ill-fame, they ſet no bounds to their lewdneſs; and yet ſuch was the blindneſs of their minds, as to imagine, that the extraordinary fine weather which continued ſo long, was ſent by the Almighty

mighty to favour their cauſe; they would ſay, "God is on our ſide, the heretics have had "dominion long enough, but our time is now "come." It was alſo their opinion, that no rain would fall, until they had finally conquered. Alas! what ignorance and deluſion, follow profaneneſs and ſuperſtition.

Tho' they were expert at the pike, which in general was from 9 to 14 feet long, they ſcarcely knew any thing of the muſquet; often when they cocked their pieces, they knew not how to uncock them again. They would labour to puſh down the flint, and if it did not yield, would ſhoulder their muſquet and march with it in that dangerous ſituation; and often on their marches, has their great ignorance of military exerciſe, nearly proved fatal to themſelves. It has been known likewiſe, that in battle they have been ſo unſkilful, or inattentive, as when loading, to bite the ball end of the cartridge.—Such was the wretched crew that formed the camp at Gorey.

At length they began to think they were too long inactive, and knowing, that could

they force Arklow, it would open a communication with the county of Wicklow and Kildare rebels, and thereby prepare the way for an immediate attack upon Dublin, reſolved to make an attempt; but fearing they had not ſufficient ſtrength, meſſengers were ſent to Wexford and Vinegar-hill, for reinforcements, while couriers were ſent round the country, ordering all perſons to repair to camp without delay.

On the 8th of June, the rebels ſent a picquet to Coolgreny, where they ſaw a party of the army reconnoitring; they returned immediately to Gorey, with information, that a large body of the King's troops were on their march towards the town. In conſequence of this, the priſoners (21 in number) were ordered up to camp, to be maſſacred; but providentially for them, Bagnel Harvey's proclamation from Carrig-burne arrived, which for that time fruſtrated their bloody deſigns. They were accordingly remanded back to priſon. Advices having been received in the evening, that

Arklow

Arklow was very weak with regard to military, it was deemed the moſt prudent plan to attack it the following day.

Early the next morning (June the 9th) the camp was crowded from every part of the country, and maſſes were celebrated by the prieſts. After this ceremony, ſome of the rebels, irritated at not being permitted to maſſacre the priſoners, melted a great quantity of pitch, and beſmearing the inſide of caps made of coarſe linen and brown paper, put them on almoſt all the priſoners heads. About 12 o'clock they marched for Arklow, 34,000 ſtrong! with three pieces of cannon, under the command of Anthony Perry; Eſmond Kyan being captain of the artillery. When they had arrived within two miles of Arklow, they were ordered to halt by John Hay, one of their captains, and having placed their gun's-men in the front, and the pike-men to charge in the rear, they were ordered to proceed; but they evinced the moſt diſorderly diſpoſition imaginable; for their officers, John Hay, Eſmond Kyan, Dick Monk, Thomas Dixon, William

William and Garret Byrne, were obliged to drive them along before them, and in this manner they proceeded towards Arklow.

Had the rebels made their appearance two days before, in all probability they would have carried the town; but fortunately reinforcements arrived from Dublin, which much ſtrengthened it, and quieted the fears of the inhabitants. The garriſon conſiſted of detachments of the 5th and 9th dragoons, Ancient Britiſh fencible cavalry, a ſmall detachment of the Royal Iriſh artillery, Durham fencible infantry, detachment of the Dunbarton fencible infantry, Cavan battalion, detachment of the Armagh, Antrim, North Cork, and Londonderry militia; alſo North and South Arklow cavalry, Camolin cavalry, Gorey cavalry, Coolgreny and Caſtletown cavalry, and a number of loyaliſts in coloured clothes, making in the whole about 1500 men. Major general Needham being commander-in-chief of the garriſon.

Arklow is a neat town in the county of Wicklow, 13 miles from Wicklow, and 35 from

from Dublin. It is an open and defenceleſs place, agreeably ſituated on a ſmall river, which iſſues from the neighbouring mountains, and diſcharges itſelf into the ocean here, under a ſtone bridge of 18 arches. There is a barrack here for infantry.

About 2 o'clock advice was received, that the enemy was approaching the town; this was ſo little credited, that the garriſon which had been ordered under arms, was juſt going to be diſmiſſed, when a dragoon came galloping into the town with intelligence from captain Elliot of the Antrim militia, that the rebels were at hand. Immediately the drums beat to arms, the trumpets ſounded, and the troops flew to their different ſtations, and preparations were made to receive the enemy.

Major general Needham drew up his forces in a moſt judicious manner. The Cavan battalion with ſome yeomen infantry, under the command of colonel Maxwel, extended a line from the center of the town to the Fiſhery; on the left was the ſea. On the right the Dur-

ham

ham fencibles were drawn in front of their encampment, with two field-pieces; detachments of the Armagh and others were placed on the right of the Durham, at the high road, and the Antrim with ſome other detachments, and all the loyaliſts in coloured clothes, were ſtationed in the barrack. The dragoons, Ancient Britons, and yeomenry corps, were ſtationed beyond the bridge, on the Dublin road.

When the rebels advanced to the Charter-ſchool, (capt. Elliot having retreated into town) Eſmond Kyan drew the cannon to the right, on an eminence that commands the town. The army being drawn up as before deſcribed, the Dunbarton fencibles were ordered out in front of the Armagh, to line the ditches on each ſide of the road, where the rebels were advancing. Thus was the army ſituated when the rebels made their appearance, with their green flags flying: they fired on the Dunbartons, which was briſkly returned. When they had exchanged about a dozen rounds, the Dunbartons received orders to retreat, and join

join the Armagh, which was done with ſeeming confuſion. About this time the rebels ſet fire to the town in many places, in order to annoy the army with the ſmoak, but the Almighty cauſed the wind to ſhift, ſo that they were confounded in their own devices. On the retreat being ordered, the rebels purſued with load huzzaing, and one of their officers waving his hat, called out, " my boys come " on, the town is our own," but he ſuddenly found himſelf ſurrounded by ſoldiers, his horſe was ſhot, and himſelf wounded, on which he fell as tho' ſlain ; when in a little time curioſity conſtraining him to look about, he was perceived, and inſtantly ſhot dead. The rebels preſſed after him, but on receiving a dreadful fire of muſquetry and grape ſhot, they fell back a conſiderable diſtance. They then extended in a long line in front of the Durham's, void of military diſcipline, in order to turn the left flank ; but the ſoldiers keeping up an inceſſant fire, they could not put their deſign into execution. Some of the rebel muſqueteers getting under the ſhelter of the ditches, annoyed the army very much, where their field-

pieces played briſkly on the town, but ſerjeant Shepherd, of the Royal Iriſh Artillery, (who was taken priſoner at the Three Rocks) being obliged to manage the cannon, elevated them ſo high, that the balls went over it; and once having loaded with grape, he turned the gun a little on one ſide, and ſwept away above 30 of the rebels. Dick Monk obſerving this tranſaction, gallopped up, and would have killed him, had not Eſmond Kyan reſolutely interpoſed, inſiſting it was the army cannon that did the execution. Kyan having ordered ſerjeant Shepherd to load with round ſhot and demoliſh the town; rode elſewhere, but Shepherd watching his opportunity, loaded again with grape, knowing it could do no injury; and this he did as faſt as poſſible during Kyan's abſence, that he might waſte the ammunition. Dick Monk and John Hay, being fully convinced all was not right, went to watch the execution from their cannon, and found he was not favouring their cauſe while loading with grape, obliged him to load with round ſhot, but the balls flew a mile beyond the town, on which Kyan level-

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ed the cannon himſelf, and one of them in ſuch direction, that the ball ſmaſhed the carriage of one of the Durham guns to ſhivers, and another ſtruck the top of the inn.

Another column of the rebels attempted to gain the lower end of the town by the beach; but here they met with a deſperate charge from the cavalry, headed by the brave colonel Sir Watkin Wynne. They then proceeded in great force to a paſſage that led to the centre of the town, but it being well guarded by only a ſerjeant and 12 men, they were defeated in this manœuvre alſo. Some of them attempted to ford the river, but there inevitable death awaited them.

Prieſt Murphy, of Ballycanow, ſtopped in Coolgreny: on going towards Arklow, he met many of the rebels retreating; he drove them before him to the battle again, telling them he would beat them with the duſt of the road. He proceeded, and on his advancing with a large party, in order to take a cannon ſtationed near the barrack, his bowels were torn out

with canniſter ſhot. The rebels that followed him fled from that quarter, ſwearing the *prieſt himſelf was down !** The heat and burthen

* The following articles of Popiſh faith were found in the pocket of Prieſt Murphy, who was killed at the battle of Arklow §

1, When we aſſemble we croſs ourſelves, ſaying, " We " acknowledge theſe our articles in the preſence of Chriſt's " Vicar, our Lord God the Pope, and in the preſence of the " holy Primates, Biſhops, Monks, Friars and Prieſts."

2d, We acknowledge they can make *Vice* Virtue, and *Virtue* Vice, according to their pleaſure. Falling flat on their faces, they proceed in this manner ſpeaking to the Hoſt, and ſaying: " Holy, glorious, and admirable Hoſt, " we acknowledge it according to our good father the pope, " we muſt all fall down before the great effigy of our Lord " God Almighty."

3d, We acknowledge the ſupremacy of the holy father the Lord God the Pope, and that he is Peter's ſucceſſor in the chair.

4th, We acknowledge that Peter has the keys of heaven, and that we will receive thoſe only who acknowledge his ſupremacy.

5th, We are bound to believe there can be no ſalvation out of our holy church.

6th, We are bound to believe, that the late holy maſſacre was lawful, and juſtly put into execution againſt Proteſtants, and that we ſhould continue the ſame as long as we can do it with ſafety to ourſelves.

7th,

§ Thoſe articles have alſo appeared in the laſt edition of VERIDICUS.

then of the action fell on colonel Skerrit, of the Durham; whoſe valiant conduct this day was

7th, We are bound to curſe, ring the bells, and put out the candles four times in each year on Heretics.

8th, We are bound to believe that Heretics can never be ſaved, unleſs they partake of that holy ſacrament, Extreme Unction.

9th, We are bound to believe, that thoſe who elope from our holy religion, are under the power of the Devil, whom Heretics follow.

10th, No faith is to be kept with Heretics tho' bound by the moſt ſacred oaths; for ſays our holy father, they have followed damnation, and Luther and Calvin.

11th, We are not to believe their oaths, for their principles are damnation.

12th, We are bound to drive Heretics out of the land with fire, ſword, faggot, and confuſion; as our holy father ſays, if their hereſy prevails we are ſtill to become their ſlaves. Oh! dear father, keep us from that. (Here the holy water is ſhaken, and they ſay the *Hail Mary* three times.)

13th, We are bound to abſolve without any reward, all thoſe who embrue their hands in the blood of Heretics.

14th, We are bound to believe that Chriſt's Vicar, our Lord God the Pope, can abſolve all men (Heretics excepted,) and has given the like power to all his inferior Clergy.

15th, We are bound to believe all the articles commanded by our holy church.

16th, We are bound to believe the Virgin Mary has more honour in heaven, than any of the Angels.

17th, We are bound to pray to the holy Angels, that they may pray for us.

18th,

was admirable. Colonel Maxwel of the Cavan, acted in the moſt ſpirited and determined manner, as did all the officers and men.

The

18th, We are bound to believe in the holy croſs, holy water, holy ſpittle, holy earth, holy bones, holy people, and beads; and that they are to be uſed on certain occaſions.

19th, We are bound to celebrate the holy maſs in latin, having ourſelves cloathed in a holy veſtment and ſhirt, bearing the holy croſs on our ſhoulders, ſignifying we are the *very* Chriſt.

20th, We are bound to believe every time maſs is celebrated there is an expiatory for the living and the dead.

21ſt, We are bound to believe there are four places of Purgatory, viz. Limbus Infantum, Limbus Patrum, Meadows of Eaſe, and Purgatory.

22d, We are bound to believe that Chriſt was three days in Limbus Patrum, where the ſouls of holy fathers go, till they get a paſs with them to the holy Peter.

23d, We are bound to believe, that the ſouls of children unbaptized, go to the Limbus Infantum, until original ſin is well paid away, by the help of holy maſſes ſaid to them.

24th, We acknowledge the ſouls of Chriſtians go to Purgatory, and remain there till we pray them out of it, that they may have the power to walk the meadows of Eaſe with ſafety till it pleaſes holy Peter to open the gates of glory for them, where no Heretic ſhall ever enter.

25th, We are bound to keep Lent, according to our Clergy's pleaſure, and to maintain the work of ſuperorogation.

26th, We are bound to acknowledge the Lake in the North to be holy, called Lough Darragh.

27th, We are bound to pray to no other Saint on that day, only them to whom it is dedicated.

28th,

The engagement continued from four till half paſt eight, at which time the rebels retreated back to Gorey. The military ſtood to their arms till four next morning, when they caſt entrenchments round the camp, expecting another attack.

It was dreadful to view the field of battle; men and horſes lay dead together; heads and limbs were ſtrewed over the fields. It is thought that not leſs than 1000 rebels could have fallen that day. Of the army there feel only

28th, We muſt baptize bells, and conſecrate chapels, and no man to enter into the holy office of a prieſt, only he who is known to be a man after the harlot Joan.

29th, We maintain ſeven ſacraments eſſential to ſalvation, viz. Baptiſm, Confirmation, Ucariſt, Penance, Extreme-Unction, Holy Orders, and Matrimony.

30th, We maintain we can tranſubſtantiate the bread and wine into the real body and blood of Chriſt.

31ſt, We believe that Heretics eat their kind of ſacrament to their eternal damnation.

32d, We believe that Chriſt is every where, but eſpecially in our church.

33d, We maintain we cannot know any thing without being in danger of judgment.

34th, We maintain that Heretics have neither the will of the Prophets nor of Chriſt.

35th, We acknowledge that the Roſary of St. Bridget is to be ſaid once a week; and laſtly, that our holy church can never err.

only captain Knox of the Caſtletown cavalry and two of his men in charging the rebels; 1 ſerjeant, 6 privates of militia killed, and about 20 wounded.

Lord Mount Norris and ſome of his troop in viewing the ſcene of action, found the body of the perfidious prieſt Murphy, who ſo much deceived him and the country; being exaſperated, his Lordſhip ordered his head to be ſtruck off, and his body to be thrown into a houſe that was burning, exclaiming, "let his "body go where his ſoul is!" This unhappy man declared to his deluded flock, that he could catch the bullets and ward them off at his pleaſure.*

The rebels in their retreat to Gorey were ſo mad with ſerjeant Shepherd; that it was with the greateſt difficulty Eſmond Kyan could ſave him from falling a ſacrifice to their fury.‡ They arrived in Gorey late in the evening, bearing with them ſeveral hundreds of the wounded.

* There were three Prieſts that boaſted of this *power*, John Murphy, Michael Murphy, and Philip Roche.

‡ Serjeant Shepherd has eſcaped, and his extraordinary fortitude and ſervices, deſerve to be noticed by his country.

wounded. Prieſt Murphy of Boolavogue met them retreating, and told them he knew they would be defeated; yet they would not take his advice. After this they were more moderate to their priſoners. On Wedneſday following, capt. Redmond, however, nephew to prieſt Redmond of Ferns, had them tried; thoſe condemned were ſent to Wexford goal, but them acquitted were compelled to go to their camp. While the rebels remained in Gorey, they ſhewed great averſion to the church, by breaking the windows and otherwiſe injuring it. They had an intolerable hatred to Proteſtant prayer-books; all they could get, they tore to pieces; even carried the leaves of the church Bible on their pikes, ſhouting, "Behold the French colours;" alſo, to compleat their impiety, and their contempt of the eſtabliſhed religion, they put two Proteſtants to death in the aiſle. In other parts they made ſaddles of the Bibles, and ſo rode about on them! In ſhort, they continued exerciſing every kind of wickedneſs till the 19th of June, when they marched for Vinegar-hill.

After the rebels were defeated at Arklow, a party of them, joined by ſome of the county Kildare, Wicklow, and Carlow inſurgents, formed an encampment at Limerick Hill, near Gorey, and on the 17th of June, they proceeded to a hill called Mount-Pleaſant, near to the village of Tinnehaly, reſolving next morning to commence an attack on Hacket's-town, ſix miles diſtant, which at that time was only protected by about 400 yeomen and 30 Antrim militia. The King's troops from their different ſtations, were now in motion, by order of the commander-in-chief, (Lieut. general Lake) in order to ſurround and entirely cut off the rebel forces, which it was imagined would concentre in one place. For this purpoſe, a large brigade under lieut. gen. Dundas, arrived in Hacket's-town, and ſhortly after, an expreſs was brought in, that the rebels had taken poſt on Mount-Pleaſant, and were burning Tinnehaly. Application was made to the general to relieve it:—he declined going himſelf, but directed colonel Lord Roden, to take the command of his

his own cavalry, and a few yeomenry corps; and to reconnoitre the position of the enemy. On Lord Roden's approach, the rebels discharged some field pieces at his party; on which he sent to the general for orders:—he immediately desired his party to retreat to town, lest they should be attacked and overpowered by their numbers. The rebels in the night, instead of attacking Hacket's-town, marched to Kilcavan-hill, near Carnew, where they were attacked next day, (June 18th) by the forces under general Dundas, assisted by major gen. Loftus's brigade; but without very great effect. The forces, by order of lieut. general Lake, who just arrived with his suite, retired to Carnew for the night, and the rebels evacuated the hill, and fled with precipitation to Vinegar-hill.

Vinegar-hill being in the vicinity of Enniscorthy, I shall just advert to that battle, before I take notice of the cruelties committed on it.

When the attack became general and the army began to give way, many treacherous

inhabitants, who from the preceding day till then, had put up Orange cockades (the diſtinguiſhed emblems of loyalty,) immediately pulled them down, and taking advantage of the confuſion, turned their arms upon the army, and fired on them from houſes, lanes, and gateways, in the moſt advantageous part of the town. There fell however of the rebels about 350; of the army, yeomenry, and volunteers, not more than between 30 and 40.

The rebels being now encamped on Vinegar-hill, and having poſſeſſion of the town, they planted the Tree of Liberty, ſhouting, "Vive la Republique," and "Erin go Braugh." Here the work of blood began, and continued every day more or leſs for 25 days; a dreadful ſpecimen of what might be expected from ſuch a government. One day they were ſo diabolical as to murder all the Proteſtants they had; and not ſatisfied herewith, ſent to Wexford for more, and every day parties ranged the country, dragging forth all they could find, to ſatiate their thirſt for blood. The ſcarcer they grew, the longer the poor victims were kept

kept in torment. On the 1ſt of June, a Proteſtant that eſcaped, by the interpoſition of a rebel captain, being in the old wind-mill, (the place where the condemned were put,) he ſaw a man ſitting on the ground there, with only a piece of ragged blanket covering him—his eyes were picked out of their ſockets, his tongue cut out, his head and body ſwelled to an enormous degree, and covered with ulcers. Not thinking he was ſtill alive, till the poor ſufferer gave a heart-piercing groan, the priſoner was ſtartled, and exclaimed, "Good "God! what miſerable object is that!"—He was anſwered by one of the guards, that he was under ſlow puniſhment. This was verified on oath. †

It has been remarked, that none of the rebels were ſo blood-thirſty, as thoſe that were moſt religious, and conſtant attendants at the Popiſh ordinances; the drunken and careleſs ſort had the greateſt ſhare of good nature; it is a certain truth, that thoſe ſavages never had ſo many maſſes, nor ever prayed ſo much, as during their month of uſurpation, eſpecially on their

† See alſo Veridicus.

their battle days; then all the old men, women and children, betook themſelves to the *ave marias*, *&c.* and when parties of two or three hundred would go round the country burning all the Proteſtant houſes, they generally fell on their knees as ſoon as they ſet them on fire.

After they had finiſhed murdering the lot or party deſtined for the day, they were aſſembled by a crier, thro' the camp and the town, when he proclaimed the following harangue:

"SHELMALIER & SHELBURNE,

to prayers: three paters, and three aves to be offered to God and the bleſſed Virgin Mary, for our glorious cauſe; for the further diſperſion, and extirpation of all Heretics; for our glorious church militant on earth, and triumphant in heaven. Kneel down and kiſs the ground, our captain has ſlain a man."

A large tub of water was then brought, which one of the prieſts immediately bleſſed: ordering the rebels to kneel round about, he, with

with a whiſk of heath or broom ſprinkled them with the water, repeating the words of the Pſalmiſt over and over, " Thou ſhalt purge " me with hyſop, and I ſhall be clean: Thou " ſhalt waſh me, and I ſhall be whiter than " ſnow." *

A Proteſtant on whoſe veracity I can depend, furniſhed me with an account of his captivity on this hill; he was made a priſoner by the rebels on Whitſun-monday. The following is his narrative:

" When I came to the priſon door, I was ſeized by the breaſt, and thrown in among the reſt of the priſoners, where I remained in the deepeſt ſorrow and affliction, believing death inevitable, as I was among the condemned. Seeing a man who had been piked the evening before, with ſigns of life, (it ſeems from this he was left for dead) in the priſon, his coat being off, his ſhirt and breeches covered with a cake of blood, and his cheeks full of holes, which were made by their abominable pikes; drawing

* Pſalm, 51. Verſe 7.

drawing near him, I enquired what happened him? he told me he had been piked the evening before, and had crept in from among the dead which lay before the door, to avoid the heat of the ſun. Looking out of the door, I ſaw the rebels leading up a priſoner, whom they ſoon after ſhot; looking out of the other door alſo, * I ſaw as near as I can judge between 30 and 40 lying dead about three yards diſtance, ſome of whom I knew, being in confinement with me, and one of them was my brother-in-law. Shortly after, a man coming in, under the pretence of ſearching our pockets for arms, robbed us of all we had, and went away. Then came that ſanguinary monſter, Luke Byrne, of Oulardards, who kept a brewery in Enniſcorthy, and enquired how many priſoners were condemned; being told twenty-ſeven, he anſwered, "if any "one can vouch for any of the priſoners "not being Orangemen, I have no objection "that they ſhould be diſcharged,"—no one returned an anſwer. He then ſaid, "is there "no

* To all Wind-mills there are two doors, one oppoſite the other.

"no one to ſpeak?"—no anſwer. He then ordered ſix guns to be brought to each door, intending to deſtroy us at once, and not ſpend the night in watching over us. The guards knowing they would be in danger of killing each other, obtained permiſſion from Byrne to bring us out, and ſhoot us one by one. We were then ordered to kneel down, and each of us to be brought out in our turn. Three rebels ſtood at the door with piſtols in their hands, and ſtill as the priſoners were brought out and placed on their knees, they were ſhot and thrown among the dead. Three of them expecting they ſhould eſcape death, by renouncing the Proteſtant religion, and turning Papiſts, called for the prieſt. John Murphy immediately arrived, and laying his hands on their heads, repeated ſome prayers in Latin. Scarce were his hands off their heads, when one of the executioners, who had a grudge to one of the priſoners, fired at him; the ball entered the unfortunate man's ear and killed him; he was carried off and let fall among the dead. I being the next, was brought to the door; a rebel calling me by my

name, caught the attention of one of the captains, whoſe name-ſake I happened to be; this was fortunate for me, as by this circumſtance my life was providentially ſpared. A man named Thornton, a reſident of Wexford, was ſhot at this inſtant, but the next man that was brought out, broke through the crowd, and ran about 17 perches, when he was met by a rebel, who with a ſcythe, ſevered his head from his body, ſo that it hung down on his breaſt; in an inſtant ſeveral pikes were faſtened in him, and I ſaw him no more. The prieſt walked away as unconcerned, as if no murder had taken place. Out of the 27 priſoners only three eſcaped; viz. Kendrick, who lived near Clondau, William Bennet, who lived near Enniſcorthy, and myſelf."

As I before obſerved, when the Proteſtants grew ſcarce, they kept them the longer in torments before they diſpatched them, by ſcourging them with laſhes made of braſs wire, and twiſted in whip-cord; George Stacy, who received 250 laſhes, and a Mr. Whitney, with ſeveral others, can witneſs to the truth of this.

But

But they did not ſtop here; piking them, but not mortally, was frequently done, for the purpoſe of keeping them in miſery. Sometimes have they choſen a ſtone, with one end ſmall and the other large, and putting the ſmall end into the mouth of the expiring victim, would ſtamp on it with the heel of the ſhoe, till his jaws were extended to the utmoſt. This barbarity was inflicted on Henry Hatton, deputy portrieve of Enniſcorthy, and many others.

It is ſaid that not leſs than 400 Proteſtants were maſſacred in Enniſcorthy, and on Vinegar-hill; the bodies of whom lay unburied ſeveral days; and ſuch was the cruelty of the rebels, that they would not ſuffer their female friends to perform the laſt act of humanity, nor even look at them, on pain of death; and to increaſe the horror of this ſcene, the ſwine were ſuffered to prey upon many of them, and ſeveral alſo, through the uncommon heat of the weather, were reduced to ſuch a ſtate of putrefaction, that at length they became offenſive to their murderers, who drew them to

the water-ſide, where they covered many with the ſand, and threw others into the river, in which for a long time after they floated to and fro with the tide.

From this fatal hill, theſe ſanguinary wretches, very deliberately went off in plundering parties, and brought with them horſes and cars, to convey back the property of their Proteſtant neighbours. They went to the houſe of Edward Hawkins, of Ballycourſey, a man well known to be of the moſt ready and obliging diſpoſition towards the lower order of the people. They firſt called for ſomething to eat and drink, and after they had ſatisfied themſelves with ſuch as the houſe afforded, they tore him out of the arms of his beloved wife, who was upwards of 60 years old, (and had loſt her ſight about a year before) and notwithſtanding all her tears and entreaties, they inſtantly murdered him at his own hall door! then loading their cars with every thing valuable in the houſe, ſet it on fire, and left the poor old woman to grope her way out, thro' the midſt of the fire and ſmoak! Not

ſatisfied

ſatisfied with this, they moſt inhumanly murdered four of her ſons,—a fifth fell in the battle of Enniſcorthy, the 28th of May. They alſo went to the houſe of one Croſhea, in the pariſh of Roſdroit, ſet fire thereunto, and as he endeavoured to eſcape, ſhot him. His three ſons, who lay concealed in a bog near the houſe two days, were at length diſcovered, and brought to a gravel pit not far diſtant; here the falſe-hearted rebels promiſed to ſpare their lives if they made a diſcovery of arms, the hope of which induced them to give the information they deſired; but having obtained it, they obliged them to ſtand arm in arm, until by word of command they were fired at. The three brothers inſtantly fell, and were dragged like dogs to a pit, into which, (notwithſtanding their being ſtill alive) they were caſt by theſe cruel and deceitful men, and covered with ſuch a quantity of earth, as rendered it impoſſible for them to raiſe it. The poor afflicted mother came in the anguiſh of her ſoul to ſeek for her children, but the rebels with great coolneſs, ſhewed her where they lay, telling her ſhe might

make

make herſelf eaſy as they were already buried for her. In ſhort they hardly left a Proteſtant houſe in the pariſh of Roſdroit, that they did not burn; nor ſcarce a Proteſtant they could lay hands on, that they did not murder. In other parts of the county, ſome Proteſtants remained at home, and ſought protection from their Popiſh neighbours, but *here* no aſylum for a Proteſtant could be found; nay, they would ſcarce permit a priſoner to paſs through, without having the pleaſure of thruſting a pike at him, to which they were farther excited by the hope of an eternal reward. They ſaid they would let the women and children live, as they might yet become true chriſtians, having no heretics to protect them.

That the rebels were not only deſtitute of faith, but likewiſe of gratitude when the ſucceſs of their religion required it, may appear from the following tragical relation: Mr. George Hornick, a wealthy inhabitant of the pariſh of Kill-Anne, ſome years ago gave privilege to have a Popiſh chapel built on his ground, and made it as convenient as poſſible

to

to the congregation, by making paſſes thro' every part of his land to it. Yet, he was not ſhewn the ſmalleſt favour for his liberality; for having in the year 1774, withſtood an attack made upon his houſe by a party of men, then known by the name of White-boys, which with the aſſiſtance of his only brother, after killing three of them, he beat off: as ſoon as the rebellion broke out, this was remembered, and his neighbours firſt deſign was upon him. Prieſt Roche, of Poul-Pearſey, accordingly headed a body of thoſe inſurgents, and proceeded to the houſe of the Rev. John Richards of ſaid pariſh, to demand *him* and all the Proteſtants who had taken refuge there. The houſe being well adapted for defence, they reſolved not to ſurrender. Roche then told them if they would deliver Hornick to him, all the reſt ſhould be ſpared. They refuſed—upon which he rode off, threatning to bring cannon, and to level the houſe to the ground. In the interim Hornick and his companions with difficulty effected their eſcape to Roſs. Hornick had, however, two ſons living in Enniſcorthy, one a clergyman, and the other

other an apprentice to an apothecary; theſe unfortunately fell into their bloody hands and were murdered. The circumſtances attending the death of the latter, are ſo diſtreſſing, I cannot help relating them. On his being taken by the rebels, they prevailed on him to write to his father for his arms, and to inform him that he was an hoſtage till they ſhould be ſent; but theſe ferocious monſters, knowing nothing of truth, gratitude or compaſſion, would not wait the father's anſwer, but led him forth to the ſlaughter. They ſhot him, piked him, ſtripped him naked, and threw him among the dead. Some life ſtill remaining, he, under cover of the night ſtole off the hill, and made home to his father's *place*, in hopes of meeting his family, but alas! they were gone and the houſe burned: he then hoped to meet ſome humanity amongſt his neighbours, but there was no ſuch thing; for as ſoon as they perceived him wounded and naked, they brought him to a gravel pit in the aforeſaid bloody pariſh of Roſdroit, and there murdered him in the moſt barbarous and ſavage manner. His uncle

uncle, Philip Hornick, was one of thoſe who ſuffered by their cruel hands at Scollabogue.

It is not a little extraordinary that ſome pariſhes were more bloody than others; for inſtance, the pariſhes of Killegny, Chappel, and Templeodican, had not a Proteſtant man killed in them, nor a houſe burned or plundered, nor one proſecuted for any criminal act during the rebellion. Whether to impute it to the mild diſpoſition of the prieſts of thoſe pariſhes, (as they moſt certainly had a foreknowledge of the buſineſs,) or to the inhabitants themſelves, we muſt leave the world to judge; for theſe pariſhes were joined by thoſe of Roſdroit, Adam's-town, Kill-Anne, Clonmore and New-bawn, where no Proteſtant was ſpared. That thoſe atrocities were not winked at by the all-ſeeing eye of heaven, may appear from the following relation:

During the rebellion, a man, named Patrick Darcy, went into the houſe of James Sherlock, of Enniſcorthy, dragged out his father William Sherlock, (a man above 60 years old,) and

murdered him in the ſtreet. After the rebellion, Darcy was apprehended for the murder, and committed to Wexford goal. On the night of the 9th of November following, his wife, who was permitted to ſleep with him in his cell, ſaw in the middle of the night the appearance of an *old man* coming in; ſhe was ſo much alarmed, that ſhe awoke her huſband; who when he beheld the apparition, gave a violent ſcreech, and immediately took ill, from which time he laboured under a very burthened mind until he died, which happened in a few days after. This I had from the goaler, while Darcy was waking. In Enniſcorthy, as well as in Gorey, they tore the inſide of the church to pieces, and left nothing ſtanding but the walls; the bell they took up to the hill which ſerved them to ring an alarm.

The following circumſtances which happened on Vinegar-hill, and Enniſcorthy, are too remarkable to eſcape notice. Charles Davis, a glazier, was ſeized by the rebels, and promiſed his liberty, if he would renounce his religion as a Proteſtant, confeſs to the prieſt, and

and receive his baptiſm; all of which he refuſed to comply with. In conſequence of this, he was piked in ſeveral parts of the body, till he became in appearance dead, and was then thrown into a field, and covered with ſome ſods of earth. Some of his friends who had previouſly ſubmitted to that ceremony, begged his body for interment, which was granted; upon raiſing him from under the ſods, ſome ſigns of life appeared; he was privately conveyed home, and after neceſſary aſſiſtance had been adminiſtered, he fortunately recovered, and is now a living witneſs of the horrid cruelty above-mentioned. His brother-in-law, Thomas Hall, painter and glazier, was laſhed to death with a cat-o-nine-tails, made of braſs wire.

A Mr. Shaw, an half-pay officer, a man of ſix feet high, concealed himſelf on a loft over a neceſſary, only four feet ſquare, and not four feet high, for the ſpace of 23 days, and was there three days before any of his friends knew what became of him; nor did any perſon know but a boy and girl, (both Romaniſts,)

who told his wife where he was concealed, and ſhe under pretence of going there occaſionally, conveyed him ſome ſuſtenance through the loft, where they ſtarted a board for that purpoſe.

Edward Roche of Garrylough, took upon himſelf the rank of general; he was a notorious rebel, but had not the character of a murderer: he iſſued the following proclamation, which was printed and circulated thro' the country.

" *Dear Fellow-Citizens,*

" The world with aſtoniſhment beholds, and future ages will record, the wonderful and brilliant victories achieved by men almoſt wholly unacquainted with military tactics, and hardly able to find men to lead them on to conquer. But what force is there can withſtand the arms of citizens fighting for liberty!—You ſee that by our exertions, almoſt the whole country is in our poſſeſſion; yet, but a few more ſtruggles, and the day is our own. Your brethren in different parts of the

the kingdom have only been waiting for the ſignal, and you ſoon will ſee them flocking to the ſtandard of liberty by thouſands. Unanimity is what I have chiefly to recommend to you, with ſubordination and ſpeedy obedience to the commands of your officers, by which means you will inſure ſucceſs, and ſoon will ſee the downfal of that government which has long been tottering under the weight of its own crimes and enormities, and under the torture and burthen of which you have ſo long groaned; but, at the ſame time let me beg of you to be particular in your conduct towards your priſoners; remember, numbers whom you have in your poſſeſſion may not be guilty through principle, but through neceſſity; remember that they may have been forced to appear againſt us, for the ſake of getting their bread, when their hearts have been with us; remember that this is not a war for religion, but for liberty; that there are a great number of great men, who are Proteſtants, who wiſh well to the cauſe in which we are engaged. Let the ſpeech of the Proteſtant biſhop of Down, in the Iriſh houſe

of

of Lords, when the famous Roman-catholic bill was ſent in, never be forgotten, but ſink deep in all your breaſts."

" EDWARD ROCHE,
" *General of the United Army of the*
" *County of Wexford, fighting in*
Vinegar-hill Camp. } " *The Cauſe of Liberty.*"

After the battles of Roſs, Newtown-barry, and Arklow, the rebels loſt all hopes; for had they gained Roſs, all the county of Kilkenny, and that of Waterford would have joined them, nor could all the military force in theſe counties have ſtopped their progreſs, until they had them completely in ſubjection; and had they been victorious at Arklow, nothing could have prevented their march to Dublin, (there being no military force in Wicklow,) where multitudes of rebels were only waiting for the ſignal, and had they reached Dublin, the fate of that city muſt have been awful; notwithſtanding the gallantry of the yeomen, who were ready for all alarms, and conſtantly on duty like the oldeſt veterans, until the noble militia

militia of England, who volunteered in our country's cauſe, came to their relief.

While general prieſt Roche, who lay at Lacken-hill, near Roſs, was making a vaſt ſum of money by the ſale of his *protections*, the committee and commanders in Wexford, received orders from the county of Kilkenny, for ſeveral thouſand pikes, as another attack upon Roſs was in agitation. The plan was this: a body of the Kilkenny rebels was to attack the town, from the Kilkenny ſide, while thoſe of Wexford were to pour into it, and put the whole garriſon to the ſword; accordingly every preparation was made for this grand attack, and further orders were diſpatched to the directory in Wexford, to ſend in the Barony of Forth rebels, who had fled thro' cowardice from the camp, after the battle of Roſs. The committee not being able to comply with their requeſt, returned the following anſwer to general prieſt Roche:

"JUNE 16th, 1798.

"*Dear Citizen*,

"We ſhall at all times be anxious to comply with your wiſhes; we have before us a meſſage

meſſage from citizen Hughes, expreſſing your wiſh to have all the men in Forth and Bargy in your camp; taking that demand in its full extent, we cannot comply with it, there are many reaſons againſt it; for inſtance, the protection of the coaſt, proviſions, &c. We have however, now iſſued orders, deſiring all unmarried men to repair to camp immediately; we did ſo before, but they were not fully obeyed; at the preſent time particular obedience will be enforced, and we truſt you will ſhortly find at your camp a number of freſh young fellows, as well appointed and provided as our beſt efforts can accompliſh; and we truſt you will find in them the means of gratifying your wiſhes on the ſubject. We wiſh you every ſucceſs in our glorious cauſe."

"*Health and Fraternity.*

"*By order of the Council,*

"NICHOLAS GRAY, *Sec.*"

"*Council Chamber,*
"*Wexford.*"

"P. S. The appearance of the armed veſſels off our coaſt, will enforce the neceſſity of keeping the married men at home, until a freſh occaſion calls upon them."

The

The garriſon of Roſs having ſome intimation of the rebels intentions, ſurrounded the town with barriers, and put themſelves in a much better ſtate of defence than before. The Roſcommon regiment of militia, and a brigade under the command of Brigadier general Moore arrived, which ſo much ſtrengthened the garriſon, that they bid defiance to any attack the United army could make.

On the 19th of June, the garriſon, conſiſting of about 7000 men, under the command of major general Johnſon, marched for Lacken-hill; the Loyal Cheſhire fencible infantry arriving, and taking the town guard. The morning being hazy impeded their march, ſo that they did not arrive at the hill till nine o'clock. During their march, which was only two miles, they ſaw the rebels formed into ſeveral extenſive lines, ſtanding firmly under arms as if ready to receive them, and continued in that poſition until they approached within a few hundred yards of their poſt; when not a ſingle man was to be ſeen on the hill. They fled towards Wexford, and joined the encamp-

ment on the Three Rocks. The flank companies and Hompeſch's huſſars ſoon mounted the ſummit in purſuit of the flying horde, where they took a vaſt quantity of plate, lead, proviſions, and ſome of their guns, which they could not conveniently carry off in their precipitate retreat. The army encamped that night at Old Roſs, where they hanged ſeveral rebels which they had picked up in their march.

When news was brought to Wexford, that the rebel army had fled from Lacken-hill to the Three Rocks, they were thrown into terrible conſternation; the rebels crowding thro' the ſtreets, the ſhops and windows were ordered to be ſhut, but in about an hour all was quiet again. Major general Moore's brigade, which conſiſted of the 2d flank battalion, two rifle companies of the 60th, a troop of Hompeſch's mounted huſſars, and a ſmall train of artillery, took a direction to the right towards Fookes's mill, and encamped that night on the lawn of the Rev. William Sutton, of Long Grage. The place choſen for the encampment

encampment was in a line to the front of the houſe, which was protected on both flanks and rear by a thick wood, out-offices, &c. &c.

The next morning the rebels left the Three Rocks, and repaired to Long Grage, to attack general Moore's brigade. General Moore ordered a ſtrong detachment under the command of lieutenant colonel Wilkinſon, to patrole towards Tintern and Clonmines, with a view to ſcour the country, and to communicate with the troops major general Johnſon ordered to join him from Duncannon Fort. Lieutenant colonel Wilkinſon returning without any intelligence of them, and deſpairing of their arrival, general Moore began his march to Taghmon, about three o'clock in the evening. The rebels from the time they left their camp on the Three Rocks, were greatly reinforced, inſomuch that their column extended 4 miles, filling the road all the way! *

* General Moore in his official account of the action, mentions the rebel army to be about 5 or 6000; but general prieſt Roche told general Moore, when the former was a priſoner in Wexford, that they were more than 18000 in number, which was afterwards found to be nearly correct.

They marched on, boaſting of their ſtrength, and expreſſing their deſire to be up with the army. Scarce had general Moore marched half a mile, when he ſaw the rebels advancing towards him, and knowing he ſhould have a warm action, preparations were made to receive them, tho' his force ſcarcely bore compariſon with regard to numbers. Having made the proper diſpoſition, he ſent his advanced guard, conſiſting of two rifle companies of the 60th regiment to ſkirmiſh with them; whilſt a howitzer and a ſix-pounder, were drawn to a croſs road above Goffe's-bridge, where ſome companies of light infantry formed on each ſide of them, under lieut. colonel Wilkinſon. The rebels attempted to attack theſe, but were repulſed by ſuch a tremendous fire of muſquetry and grape ſhot, as made them fly in confuſion over the bridge; while theſe were flying a large body moved towards the left wing, but major Aylmer, and afterwards major Daniel, with five companies of light infantry, and a ſix-pounder, were detached againſt them. The 60th regiment finding no more oppoſition in front, had of themſelves

themſelves, inclined to the left, to engage the body that was attempting to turn that wing; here the action was very bloody, the rebels confiding in their numbers, and being ſo well armed with pikes and muſquets, maintained an obſtinate fight. The conflict was ſo ſharp, that general Moore was himſelf doubtful, who would keep the field; for the flower of his brigade could not come into action, being obliged to guard the ammunition and baggage. A party of the rebels perceiving Hompeſch's huſſars bearing down on them, dreſſed in green, (which was their uniform,) ſome of them huzzaed to the reſt, thinking that their friends were coming to their aſſiſtance, but to their coſt, they were ſoon convinced of their miſtake. After a ſevere conflict of four hours and an half, the rebels diſperſed and fled; the chief part to Vinegar-hill and Wexford, with intelligence of their defeat. The enemy's loſs could not be fully aſcertained, as the dead lay ſcattered over a conſiderable tract of land; and had the ſituation of the country admitted of a charge from the cavalry in their retreat, many hundreds more would have fallen:

len: major Daniel was the only officer killed. General Moore took poſt on the field of battle that night, (it being too late for him to proceed to Taghmon,) where he was reinforced by the 2d, and 29th regiments, under the command of Lord Dalhouſie.

The garriſon of Arklow, conſiſting of the Cavan battalion, Durham fencibles, detachments of the Armagh, Londonderry, Antrim, and Tyrone militia; Dunbarton and Suffolk fencibles, with detachments from the Ancient Britiſh fencible cavalry, 5th and 9th dragoons, and 20 each, from all the yeomen cavalry ſtationed in Arklow; in all about 3800 brave fellows, under the command of major general Needham, were on the 19th of June, put in motion, for the purpoſe of attacking the rebel camp on Gorey-hill; but they, hearing of the approach of the army, abandoned the hill, like their brethren at Lacken, and fled with precipitation to Carragrewa, where they encamped that night, and the next day, flew with greater haſte to Enniſcorthy and Vinegar-hill. The troops from Arklow, quartered

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ed that night in Gorey, where they found various articles of value, which the rebels in their hurry left behind them; alſo a howitzer, and a ſhip-gun which were ordered to be ſpiked. They took ſome priſoners in Gorey, among whom was prieſt Francis Kavanagh, who, on the court-martial of a rebel the day before in Arklow, was proved to be a moſt diſaffected man, tho' one of the oldeſt and moſt reſpectable of his claſs in the county.

The next morning the troops marched for Oulard, taking with them prieſt Kavanagh, who was there diſcharged, thro' the interference of ſome neighbouring gentlemen. Such a gallant army, accompanied with ſo much cannon, ammunition-waggons, baggage, and bread cars, paſſing through the country, terrified the rebel inhabitants to ſuch a degree, that they fled as faſt as poſſible towards Vinegar-hill. The army encamped at Oulard that night, during which, they received orders from the commander-in-chief, lieutenant general Lake, to repair to Vinegar-hill, as it was his intention to attack it the next morning.

Vinegar-

Vinegar-hill was now the only refuge of the rebels, and from the ſtrength of its ſituation, it was ſuppoſed by them to be impregnable. They certainly were of opinion, that all the troops in Great Britain and Ireland would not be able to diſlodge them. However, on the evening of the 20th of June, they were rouſed on beholding his Majeſty's forces advancing in two directions: A column from Roſs under the command of majors general Johnſon and Euſtace, encamped on the right of the hill about one mile diſtance. The rebels ſeeing this, affected a kind of courage, and vauntingly cried, "They are not a breakfaſt for us, "we will ſoon put them to flight." Accordingly they advanced with a field-piece, and a column of muſqueteers, as tho' they would carry all before them. A ſkirmiſh took place, but no lives were loſt, for the rebels were afraid to go too near, and general Johnſon knew his duty too well, to remove from his ſtation till the appointed time. Another column commanded by lieutenant general Dundas, encamped about two miles from the hill, on the left of the Slaney, ſupported on the right by another

another column, commanded by majors general Sir James Duff and Loftus. During the night, the column under general Needham took ſtation on another ſide of the hill, and all the field officers were employed in reconnoitring and forming a plan for attacking the enemy the next morning. Here for a while we ſhall leave them, and take a view of the melancholy ſcenes exhibited in the town and on the bridge of Wexford.

On the 19th of June, the Proteſtant women in Wexford received the heart-rending intelligence that all the priſoners were to be murdered the next day. That night alſo, one of them, while ſitting alone in ſilent ſorrow, heard the death-bell toll as loud as ever ſhe heard it, and much more awful.

The next morning, the never to be forgotten 20th of June! Thomas Dixon rode to the goal door, and ſwore that not a priſoner ſhould be alive againſt ſun ſet; then rode into the ſtreet, repeating the ſame with horrid imprecations, adding, "that not a ſoul ſhould be

" left to tell the tale." Good God! how ſhall I proceed? neither tongue nor pen can deſcribe the diſmal aſpect of that melancholy day—a day in which the ſun did not ſo much as glimmer through the frowning heavens. The town bell rung, and their drums beat to arms, to aſſemble the rebels for the purpoſe of joining thoſe at the Three Rocks, in order to march againſt general Moore's brigade. In the evening Thomas Dixon aſſembled the murdering band, and immediately hoiſted that harbinger of deſtruction, the *Black Flag*, which had on one ſide a bloody croſs, and on the other, the initials—M. W. S. that is, " Murder without ſin," ſignifying, that it was no ſin to murder a Proteſtant. It was an awful ſight to ſuch priſoners as underſtood the dreadful ſignification of thoſe letters. Having paraded ſome time to give more ſolemnity to the ſcene, the poor Proteſtants who were confined in the goal and priſon-ſhip, were led forth to the ſlaughter—They were conducted under a ſtrong guard of unrelenting furies to the bridge, piked to death, with every circumſtance of cruelty, and then flung into the river

river to leave room for more! While this work was going on, a rebel captain being ſhocked at the cries of the victims, ran to the Popiſh biſhop, who was then drinking wine with the utmoſt compoſure after his dinner, and knowing that he could ſtop the maſſacre ſooner than any other perſon, entreated of him "for the mercy of Jeſus" to come and ſave the priſoners. He in a very unconcerned manner replied, "It was no affair of his," and requeſted the captain "would ſit down "and take a glaſs with him," adding "that "the people ſhould be gratified!" The captain refuſed the biſhop's invitation, and filled with abhorrence and diſtreſs of mind, walked ſilently away. All this time the mercileſs pike-men were butchering the poor Proteſtants on the bridge *; ſome they would perforate in places not mortal, to prolong and increaſe their torture, others they would raiſe aloft on their pikes, and while the poor friendleſs victim writhed in the extreme of agony, and his blood ſtreamed down the handles of t heir pikes, they exulted round him with ſavage joy.

* See an accurate view of the maſſacre prefixed to this Work.

In the midſt of this torturing work, general Edward Roche gallopped up in great haſte, and bid them beat to arms, declaring, " that Vine-" gar-hill was nearly ſurrounded by the " King's troops, and that all ſhould repair to " camp, as reinforcements were then wanting." This expreſs had a wonderful effect; they inſtantly cloſed the bloody ſcene, and fled in all directions, leaving three of the priſoners on their knees, namely, William Hamilton, William O'Connor, and Charles Jackſon. Some of the rebel guard returned ſhortly after, and remanded back the priſoners, who had continued all the time on their knees, without making the leaſt effort to eſcape, being ſtupified with terror. Shortly after that ſanguinary monſter, Thomas Dixon returned; his thirſt for Proteſtant blood not being yet ſatiated, he ordered out the remainder of the priſoners from the goal and priſon-ſhip, the greater part of whom were tortured to death in like manner as the former. He then proceeded to the market-houſe, and having fixed his vulture's eye on others, dragged them to the fatal bridge for execution. While they were enduring

during the pangs of death, who can convey to the mind or feelings of another, what the remainder felt on this occaſion? After butchering them, they returned and brought out ten more, which they alſo barbarouſly murdered. The third time they took out 18, and were maſſacring them, when Dick Monk rode into town from Vinegar-hill, with his ſhoes and ſtockings off, and ſhouting, "D—n your "ſouls you vagabonds, why dont you go "out and meet the enemy that are coming "in, and not be murdering in cold blood?" Some Proteſtant women followed him, and aſked him, "what news?" he replied, "bad "news indeed, the King's forces are encamp-"ed round Vinegar-hill." He then rode towards the convent, and perceiving the women (who were anxious to be more fully informed of this matter) following him, he drew out a piſtol and ſwore, "that if they "came any farther he would blow their brains "out." They being intimidated by this menace, durſt not purſue him farther, but ſtood and viewed him riding towards the convent; ſhortly after prieſt Corrin was ſeen running towards

watds the bridge. There were ſix of the poor Proteſtants killed out of the laſt party that were taken down before he arrived, namely, Philip Bacon, Samuel Gordon, William Stedman, Thomas Rigly, James Dowzar, and Thomas Shaw; and it was with great difficulty he prevailed upon them to ſpare the reſt; for after uſing all the arguments he poſſibly could to no effect, he at length took off his hat, and deſired them to kneel down and pray for the ſouls of the poor priſoners before they put them to death; they did ſo, and having got them in the attitude of devotion, he ſaid, "Now pray to God to have "mercy on your ſouls, and teach you to ſhew "that kindneſs towards them, which you ex- "pect from HIM, in the hour of death, and in "the day of Judgment." This had the deſired effect; he then led them off the bridge without oppoſition, when they were ſent back to confinement. The maſſacre that day ceaſed about 8 o'clock in the evening. Out of 48 priſoners who had been confined in the market-houſe, only the following perſons eſcaped:

Matthew Kelly,	Peter Judd,
William Kennedy,	William Shepherd,

James

James Hamilton,
Benjamin Warren,
Matthew Fenlon,
William Kelly,
John Combes,
John Kendrick,
Joſeph Baviſtor,
James Patchel.
William Harris,
John Makay,
Francis M'Coy,
Sandwith Martin,
Robert Styles,
Robert Makay,
George Taylor,*

The very awful appearance of this evening, and the bloody ſcenes of the day, alarmed the remaining Proteſtants, and terrified them beyond deſcription; for the rebels declared openly, that they would put every Proteſtant man, woman, and child to the ſword the next morning.

We ſhall now return to Vinegar-hill. The different columns ſurrounding Vinegar-hill were impatient for battle. At half paſt five o'clock on the 21ſt of June, a gun was fired from the right, and anſwered from the centre and left columns, as a ſignal for a general attack; which

* The Author of this Hiſtory.

which began with a terrible diſcharge of artillery, and was inceſſantly kept up for an hour and three quarters. The poſition of the right column when the firing commenced, being on a riſing ground at the Weſt end of the town, and Vinegar-hill being on the Eaſt, they played on the rebels with ſix-pounders, while the column covered by the fire of their own cannon, attacked them in the town, who tho' they had taken the moſt advantageous poſitions they could in the ſtreets and houſes, were obliged to yield, if not to numbers, to the ſuperior bravery and ſkill of his Majeſty's troops, and the ſlaughter among them was great. They then thought to fly to the hill for to take ſhelter, but before they could gain the top it was cleared by the centre column, which had formed their line on a riſing ground on the north ſide of the hill, where the rebels had raiſed a breaſt-work. Here they were plied well from ſix-pounders and mortars. Seeing the ſhells, they were drove into the utmoſt confuſion, nor could they think what to make of them; ſome, ſhouting in a

kind

kind of delirium (as ſhell followed ſhell) "they "ſpit fire at us,"—others, "we can ſtand any "thing but theſe guns which fire twice." Indeed the carnage occaſioned by them was very great, and fully anſwered the end. Perceiving the effects of the ſhells they fled from their ſtrong hold, and took another poſition on the lower hill, on the eaſt ſide. The Kings troops now mounted the ſummit, tore down the rebel ſtandard, which was on the top of the old windmill, and diſplayed the Royal banners, which the rebels again bid defiance to, and planting themſelves behind the ditches, which ſerved them for entrenchments, and breaſt-works, they kept up a very heavy fire on the light brigade, commanded by colonel Campbell; but nothing could retard the progreſs of theſe brave troops, they ruſhed on them like furies—charging them in their entrenchments, and with the aſſiſtance of the left column which flanked them, ſoon put them to the route. Their own cannon were then turned on them, which threw them into the greateſt confuſion; the cavalry then pur-

ſued, and mowed them down like graſs. Among the ſlain was prieſt Thomas Clinch, a moſt notorious and reſolute rebel. They now made for Wexford; the paſs leading to that town being left open, whether deſignedly or not, I cannot ſay. There fell however, of the rebels in the town, on the hill, and in the retreat, above 500. The number that ſurrounded the hill amounted to 15000 men, of which 3000 were cavalry—Lieutenant general Lake, commander-in-chief. Throughout the whole of this arduous undertaking, the troops who were filled with the true ſpirit of loyalty, diſplayed aſtoniſhing courage and perſeverance. But alas! juſt after the battle, while the ſoldiers were yet filled with rage, a few poor loyaliſts that had encountered the greateſt difficulties to eſcape the mercileſs hands of the rebels, and tranſported at the approach of the army, unthinkingly ran to them for protection, but being in coloured clothes were ſhot by their deliverers, before they had time to make known their diſtreſs; in this the ſoldiers were blameleſs, not being able for

the

the moment to diſcriminate between the rebel and the loyaliſt.

RETURN

Of the killed, wounded and miſſing of the King's Troops, in the attack of Vinegar-hill and Enniſcorthy, June 21ſt, 1798.

OFFICERS KILLED.

Lieut. Sandy's, Longford militia, attached to 1ſt battalion—Lieutenant Barnes, 13th foot, attached to 4th battalion.

WOUNDED.

Major Veſey,† Dublin county militia—Col. King, Sligo militia—Captain Dunne, 7th dragoon guards—Captain Shundea, 60th regiment of foot, 5th battalion—Lieutenant Barker, Kildare militia, attached to 4th battalion—Lieutenant Hill, Mid-Lothian fencible cavalry.

† Now Colonel Veſey.

PRIVATES.

Ninth dragoon guards, 1 rank and file, killed.

Mid-Lothian, 1 rank and file, wounded.

Hompeſch's huſſars, 2 rank and file, wounded.

Dunlavin yeomen cavalry, 1 rank and file, wounded.

89th regiment of foot, 1 rank and file, killed.

1ſt battalion light infantry, 1 ſerjeant wounded, 2 rank and file, killed, 18 wounded, and 3 miſſing.

Royal Britiſh horſe artillery, 1 rank and file, wounded.

Sligo militia, 2 rank and file, killed, 3 wounded.

Suffolk fencible infantry, 2 rank and file, wounded.

5th battalion, 60th regiment, 1 ſerjeant miſſing, 5 rank and file, killed, 5 wounded.

4th battalion, 1 ſerjeant, killed, 3 rank and file, killed, 22 wounded, 1 miſſing.

Royal Meath militia, 1 ſerjeant, killed.

Roſcommon

Roſcommon militia, 1 rank and file, wounded, 1 miſſing.

Dublin county militia, 2 rank and file, killed, 6 wounded.

RETURN

Of Ordnance, as taken from the rebels, on Vinegar-hill, June 21ſt, 1798.

Three braſs 6 pounders—one 3 pounder—ſeven 1 pounders—one $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch howitzer—two $4\frac{1}{2}$ inch howitzers.—Total 14.

ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION.

Seventeen 6 pounders—thirty 1 pounders—eleven $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch howitzers. Total, 58.

Note. A cart with a great variety of balls of different diameters, had been thrown down the hill after the action, and immenſe quantities of lead and leaden balls were delivered over to the Dunbarton fencible infantry.

When the rebels, (who were filled with rage and diſappointment,) arrived at Wexford, they were

were for putting to death all the priſoners; others were for evacuating the town, while more were for fighting to the laſt. It was the intention of lieutenant general Lake, for general Moore to march from Taghmon, lieutenant general Dundas, general Sir James Duff and Loftus, to march through Enniſcorthy, and general Needham to proceed through Oulard, and ſurround Wexford by land, whilſt 8 frigates then riding outſide the harbour, with ſome gun-boats, were to come into the river under the town, and with their united force lay it in ruins, if not evacuated. The rebels in town, knowing that general Moore and his brigade, muſt of courſe be advancing from Taghmon, and that the victorious army at Enniſcorthy would follow him, ſaw themſelves in a very critical ſituation, and being convinced they could not keep the town, liberated Lord Kingſborough, and the other officers who were priſoners there, and ſent them to propoſe about the ſurrender of it, hoping alſo, that the lenity which was ſhewn to *them*, would induce the conquerors

to

to grant them favourable terms. Accordingly, captain M'Manus of the Antrim militia, (who was taken at the battle near Gorey, June 4th) and Edward Hay, a rebel captain, were diſpatched towards Taghmon, to meet general Moore, with the following terms, propoſed by the rebels in the town of Wexford.

" That captain M'Manus ſhall proceed from Wexford towards Oulart, accompanied by Mr. E. Hay, appointed by the inhabitants of all religious perſuaſions, to inform the officer commanding the King's troops, that they are ready to deliver up the town of Wexford without oppoſition, lay down their arms, and return to their allegiance, provided that their perſons and properties are guarranteed by the commanding officer, and that they will uſe every influence in their power to induce the people of the country at large to return to their allegiance alſo. Theſe terms we hope captain M'Manus will be able to procure."

" *Signed, by order of the*

" *Inhabitants of Wexford,*

" MATT. KEUGHE."

When general Moore received theſe propoſals, he diſpatched them to lieutenant general Lake, who returned the following anſwer:

" Lieutenant general Lake cannot attend to any terms offered by rebels in arms againſt their Sovereign; while they continue ſo, he muſt uſe the force entruſted to him, with the utmoſt energy for their deſtruction.

" To the deluded multitude he promiſes pardon, on their delivering into his hands their leaders, ſurrendering their arms, and returning with ſincerity to their allegiance.

(Signed,)

" G. LAKE."

Enniſcorthy, 22d of June, 1798.

After this embaſſy was ſent off, general prieſt Roche endeavoured to perſuade the rebels, to go out and meet the army that were advancing towards the town, telling them, " it was better and more honourable for them to fight to the laſt, than ſuffer themſelves to be

be cut in pieces by the King's forces." All his entreaties were in vain; they abſolutely refuſed to go on any account. The Popiſh biſhop then ordered them all to kneel down, till he would give them his benediction; and in about half an hour the drums beat a retreat. General Roche and his men, fled to Killinic, in the barony of Forth, where they encamped that night, and early the next morning went to the borders of the county Kilkenny. Perry and his men fled over the bridge towards Kilmuckridge.

General Moore's brigade arrived at the Windmill-hill, above Wexford, about 5 o'clock in the evening, end ſent a detachment of two companies of the Queen's Royals, to take poſſeſſion of the garriſon. Captain Boyd of the Wexford cavalry, and a few of his troop were the firſt that appeared; they came (amidſt innumerable bleſſings,) gallopping up to the goal door to ſee the priſoners. Many a tear was ſhead on this happy occaſion, by the overjoyed inhabitants; but captain Boyd cau-

tioned the priſoners, not to come out till the arrival of the army, leſt on their coming into town they might be taken for rebels, (not having military clothes) and put to death—ſhortly after the Queen's Royals arrived. Deſcription fails in attempting to ſet forth the emotions which aroſe in the breaſt of the poor Proteſtants, who had been doomed to deſtruction. The entrance of the army was peculiarly ſtriking; for inſtead of ruſhing in with all the violence of enraged men, as might be expected, they marched along in ſuch ſolemnity and ſilent grandeur, that not a whiſper was to be heard thro' all the ranks. Many wept with joy to ſee their deliverers, who ſoon opened the priſon doors, "and ſet the priſoners free." Thus was the town of Wexford recovered from Popery's perſecuting reign, on the 21ſt of June, 1798, after being in poſſeſſion of the rebels 23 days. Had the army arrived a day ſooner, they would have ſaved 97 Proteſtants, who were cruelly butchered on the bridge. Indeed the ſhocking acts of barbarity practiſed during this period, would make as many

many pictures of inhumanity, as are to be found in the hiſtory of martyrs.

Lieutenant general Lake now iſſued a proclamation for the apprehending of all the rebel leaders; aſſuring the deluded multitude, that ſuch as would come forward and deliver up their arms, ſhould find mercy and protection; he alſo iſſued general orders that no perſon ſhould be put to death, unleſs he had been tried and condemned by a court martial, and he forbid any inhabitant, or other perſon being moleſted, ſtrictly charging the ſoldiers not to take away an article from any perſon, without having firſt paid for it. The defeat of Vinegar-hill, and the evacuation of Wexford, ſo diſpirited the rebels, that they flocked to the different commanders of garriſons, and on being ſworn to allegiance, were favoured with protections; but few, very few arms were brought in, ſo that it is believed that they are ſtill in their poſſeſſion.

Perry and his men fled towards Kilmuckridge, and on the next day, Friday 22d of

June, paſſed through Gorey, where they ſurpriſed ſome of the neighbouring yeomenry and loyaliſts, who that day had come from Arklow, for the purpoſe of ſeeing the ſituation of the country. The yeomen and ſuch of the loyaliſts as had arms, gallantly withſtood them, till perceiving the rebels endeavouring to ſurround them, they retreated to Arklow, and were purſued by the rebels; the following with ſix others were ſlaughtered by the way. That day has ſince has been known by the name of "Bloody Friday."

Bates, William
Bates, Robert
Baſſit, John
Butler, William
Butler, Richard
Buttle, Thomas
Cheaſe, William
Coke, John
Dobbin, William
Erritt, William
Foxton, Thomas
Gray, William
Harris, John
Jones, William
Johnſon, John ſen.
Johnſon, John jun.
Johnſon,——
Jolly, Thomas
Kennedy, Joſeph
Lee, Richard
Moore, Daniel
Needham, John

Ormſby,

Ormſby, William	Stanford, William
Patchel, Michael	Whitaker, John
Rogers, Henry	Webſter, Robert
Read, George	Williams, Ralph
Shaw, Abraham	

Before I proceed, I ſhall take the liberty of recording the extraordinary caſe of James Rowſome, which affords another inſtance of the ſanguinary ſpirit of Popery. On the retreat of the loyaliſts, from Gorey, on the above melancholy day, James Rowſome was overtaken by general Perry and his men; they knowing who he was, were upon the point of piking him, but Perry deſired them to forbear, and leave him for thoſe who were coming after. Prieſt Kearns ſoon came up with another body of rebels, and aſked him his name, he told him; on which he deſired him to lie down, till he ſhould ſhoot him. Some of the rebels were going to diſpatch him in their own way, but Kearns prevented them, ſaying, he would do him the honour to diſpatch him himſelf. He ſnapped his piſtol at him,

but

but it miſſing fire, the rebels were again for piking him, but the prieſt very deliberately put freſh powder in the pan, and ordered him not to ſtir, telling him he would now do his buſineſs. He accordingly fired; the ball paſſed thro' his chin and upper lip, and came out at his neck, tearing him in a ſhocking manner. Here they left him weltering in his gore. After ſome time he crept off the road, and lay for a while hid in ſome fern in an adjoining field; here two rebels found him, and aſked "if he was not yet dead?" he ſaid not, but almoſt,—one of them ſaid, it ſhould not be long until he would, on which he fired at him—the ball broke one of his arms; the other rebel would not fire, having but one charge—but got a large ſtone and beat the poor ſufferer on the head, until no appearance of life was left. Here he lay until near day light, when recovering a little ſtrength he croſſed the country to Benough, to a friend's houſe, in whoſe pig-houſe, he lay two days and nights without nouriſhment, except ſome milk and water; but on the

arrival

arrival of the King's troops at Gorey, he was conveyed on the proviſion carrs to the military hoſpital in Bray, where he remained ſome months till cured, and is now a living monument of the ſparing mercy of God. Of all the objects I have ſeen, he is one of the greateſt; has loſt all his under teeth and the bones of his chin; his jaw is locked, his under lip ſplit from the point to his ſwallow, he can't take any ſort of food but what is adminiſtered through the medium of a ſpoon; and he is under the neceſſity of keeping a large ſponge under his chin, to receive a humour which continually oozes through the part, and to keep his boſom dry.

The rebel armies commanded by Perry and Roche, now formed a junction in the mountains which divide the county of Wexford from that of Kilkenny, where for a while we will leave them to give ſome account of their leaders taken in Wexford.

A few days after the army entered that town, the famous gen. prieſt Roche, was arreſted,

ed, tried by court-martial, and executed at the bridge, from whence his body was thrown into the water. He was a man of great ſtature, and ſo very heavy, that on his being ſuſpended the rope broke. John Hay, a rebel officer, was alſo taken, found guilty and executed.

B. B. Harvey, who acted as commander-in-chief to the rebels, was grandſon to the late Rev. William Harvey, of Bargy-caſtle, and rector of the Union of Malrankin. His father the late Francis Harvey, Eſq. was an attorney, and by his frugality had enlarged his eſtate by ſeveral purchaſes, all of which on his deceaſe, devolved to his eldeſt ſon, the late unfortunate Mr. Harvey, a gentleman, who, before the rebellion, was greatly beloved by every deſcription of people. After the rebels were diſcomfited at Vinegar-hill, Mr. Harvey, accompanied by Mr. John Colclough, a rebel, fled to one of the Saltee iſlands, about four miles from the ſhore, taking with them ſome proviſions, wine, ſpirits, and arms, intending to remain there till an opportunity offered

offered of conveying themſelves to France;—but information having been received where they were ſecreted, a party of military were diſpatched thither on the 27th of June, where they were apprehended and conveyed to Wexford. Mr. Harvey's trial commenced the ſame evening—he appeared to be much agitated, and ſcarcely ſpoke. It appeared in evidence that he acted as commander-in-chief of the rebel forces, at the battle of Roſs, on the 5th of June, and a letter to the commander-in-chief of the King's forces, written in the hand writing, and ſigned with the name of B. B. Harvey, ſummoning him to ſurrender the town to the rebels, was produced in evidence on the trial, and acknowledged by Mr. Harvey to be his hand writing;—he produced many witneſſes in his defence, but none to contradict the facts—he did not deny his having acted as commander of the rebel forces, but endeavoured to extenuate, by ſaying, he accepted the command to prevent much greater evils, which would accrue from its fal-

ling into other hands, and with the hope of ſurrendering that command, one day or other, with greater advantage to the county. He had no council, and after a trial which laſted eight hours, he was found guilty of death; which ſentence was put into execution on the morning of the 28th.—His head was ſevered from his body, placed on the Seſſion-houſe, and his body thrown into the river.

John Colclough, of Ballyteigue, (a rebel officer) was a gentleman of reſpectability, and bore a very good private character. He was in ſtature of a full middle ſize, had rather a long viſage, wore his own hair which was of a ſandy colour, tied behind; he was about 30 years old, of a chearful aſpect and polite manners. Mr. Colclough was alſo executed on the evening of the 28th, and his body was thrown into the water.

Cornelius Grogan, was the eldeſt ſon of the late John Grogan, of Johnſtown, Eſq. in the county

county of Wexford; a man of very fine landed property, and was ſuppoſed to be the greateſt monied gentleman in that county; of a retired diſpoſition, and had never been known to take an active part in political matters, but paſſed the chief part of his time in trying mechanical experiments. He ſat as member for the town of Enniſcorthy; and on the diſſolution of Parliament in 1790, he offered himſelf a member for the county of Wexford, but loſt it by a ſmall majority. He had three younger brothers, two of whom were captains of yeomenry corps, and of approved loyalty; one of them (captain Thomas Knox,) was killed by the rebels, in a charge at the battle of Arklow, and the other, captain John Grogan of the Healthfield cavalry, was wounded in the neck in an action with the rebels. After the army arrived in Wexford, he was arreſted at his ſeat in Johnſtown, and on his trial he endeavoured to prove he was forced to act as commiſſary to the rebel army; but was convicted, and executed; his head was cut off, placed on the

court-houſe, and his body thrown into the water.

Matthew Keughe, (rebel governor of Wexford,) was formerly a drummer in his Majeſty's 33d regiment of foot, and by his extraordinary merit, was advanced from that ſtation, to the rank of captain in the ſame regiment. On being married in Wexford, he ſold out of the army on half-pay, and actually received it at the breaking out of the rebellion. He was about 50 years of age, rather above the middle ſize, and might be called a well looking man; his head was bald in the front; he wore his hair, which was remarkably white, tied behind. Some years back, he was appointed a magiſtrate of the county of Wexford, but his commiſſion was afterwards taken from him for ſome political reaſons. On the alarm being given, that the rebels were riſing in the county, he volunteered in one of the yeomenry corps; and on Whitſunday, was employed in eſtabliſhing fortifications to re-

pulſe the inſurgents. On Whitſun-Monday, he was appointed to command a party of loyaliſts, which were to guard one of the entrances to the town; yet on the rebels taking poſſeſſion of the town, he joined them, and was appointed governor; in which ſituation he continued, till the Royal troops obtained poſſeſſion of it; when he was taken priſoner, convicted on the cleareſt evidence, and ſentenced to be executed, which took place accordingly; his head was alſo cut off, placed on the Seſſion houſe, and his body thrown into the river.

Eſmond Kyan, (rebel captain of artillery,) was the youngeſt ſon of the late Howard Kyan, of Mount-Howard, in the county of Wexford, Eſq. and his mother was aunt to the preſent Sir Thomas Eſmond, Bart. of the county of Wexford. He was about 50 years of age, five feet and a half high, and rather a handſome man; of a very genteel appearance, but ſomewhat awkward on account of the loſs of his left

left arm, which was cut off near the elbow ſome years ago, and a cork one ſubſtituted in its ſtead. He was liberal, generous, courageous and merciful. Having received a ſevere wound in his left arm, above where the cork one was joined, and being tired of a rebellious life, he went for Wexford ſhortly after the army took poſſeſſion of the town, in order to ſurrender himſelf, but was met by the picquet guard, and taken; he was tried, found guilty, and executed, after which his body was throwa into the water,

Edward Roche, (rebel general) was a middling country farmer and malſter, near Wexford; and until this time, never appeared in any conſpicuous character, more than being permanent ſerjeant in the Shelmalier yeomen cavalry, commanded by captain Le' Hunte: he was about five feet ſeven inches high, rather corpulent; about 40 years old, and had no more the appearance of a general than any other

other man, except that he wore two large gold epaulets, a ſilk ſaſh and belt, in which he was tried and ſentenced for tranſportation; and was accordingly ſent to New-gate with other convicts; but before the veſſel was ready to convey them abroad, he, with ſome others, died ſuddenly: it was thought they had taken poiſon.

Richard Monaghan, alias Dick Monk, (rebel captain,) was a man born of obſcure parents, had formerly been a ſhoe-black in Wexford, but being a fellow of wit and humour, he was thought ſomething of; and made out a livelihood by buying corn for the merchants; for which he was paid two pence per barrel. He had alſo been a recruiting ſerjeant part of his life; and on the rebellion breaking out, he was appointed a captain in the rebel army, and was conſidered during that period, as a very generous, well minded man. After the rebels were driven out of the county, he received a wound in an engagement, and was

going

going to New-town-barry to ſurrender himſelf to Colonel Maxwell, of the Cavan militia, when he was met by ſome of the yeomenry of the town, and ſhot.

Thomas Dixon, (rebel captain,) was the ſon of a publican in Caſtle-bridge, near Wexford; in his youth he was bound an apprentice to a tanner in New-Roſs; but not liking that buſineſs, he went to ſea, and in ſome time was appointed maſter of one of his brother's veſſels, who is an opulent merchant in Caſtle-bridge. During the rebellion, he was noted for cruelty and cowardice, and has been the means of ſhedding a great quantity of Proteſtant blood. His wife, if poſſible, was more ſanguinary than himſelf, and wherever they have ſecreted themſelves, they never could be found, tho' a large reward was offered for their apprehenſion.

Having given an exact account of the rebellion in the County of Wexford, and the principal

principal leaders thereof, it now remains to inform the readers of their conduct, from the retaking of Wexford, by the King's troops, to their total ſeparation. But previous to my entering upon this, I ſhall inſert two more inſtances of their cruelty; the one atteſted upon oath, the other delivered by a perſon of the ſtricteſt integrity, who ſuffered by their barbarous hands. A few weeks after the battle of Vinegar-hill, an affidavit was made before Alderman Fleming, then lord mayor of the city of Dublin, by Richard Sterne, a man of about 70 years of age, and an old inhabitant of Enniſcorthy, to the following purport:

"That he in his flight from Enniſcorthy, was overtaken by a great body of rebels, on their way to Wexford, near the ſeat of Mr. Ogle; that the rebels were headed by prieſt John Murphy, on horſeback, who carried before him a large crucifix; that he was accoſted by one of their officers as an Orange-man, and aſked would he turn Roman-Catholic? that he replied he would not; for having lived all his

life a Proteſtant, he could not think of turning in his old days; that upon his ſo declaring, he was threatened with inſtant death, but that life being ſweet, he on recollection aſked, if he would turn, ſhould his life be ſpared? that he was anſwered not; but that in mercy he ſhould be ſhot, but that if he did not turn, he ſhould be tortured to death with pikes; that he then enquired, why they would kill him tho' he turned? they anſwered leſt he ſhould afterwards turn heretic; that hereon he begged hard, that application might be made to the prieſt in his behalf; that when the prieſt was aſked, what ſhould be done with him? he replied, what they liked; that he then told them if he muſt die, he preferred being piked for a Proteſtant, rather than to be ſhot after denying his faith; but that he requeſted they would bring him before Father Murphy, which they did; that becauſe he did not inſtantly fall on his knees and bow to the crucifix, he was ſtruck on the head with a ſpade handle, ſhod with iron, and left for dead; that when he recovered he ſaw none of the rebels, and judges he lay on the road ſenſeleſs ſome

hours; that he found he had been ſtabbed in various parts of the body with pikes, and was ſo ſore that he could hardly riſe; that he received one ſtab which paſſed entirely through him, from the right to the left ſide, and thinks it was with a cane ſword, or ſome ſuch weapon, the orifice of the wound being ſmall; that he lay ſo long, his wounds ſtopped bleeding, the blood being congealed and was ſo faint he could hardly walk, the ſtroke he received in his head having diſabled him much; that with the little ſtrength he had, he crept off the road, and went towards the Slaney, (about half a mile diſtant) expecting before he ſhould be obſerved, to gain Mr. Ogle's houſe, (the land-ſteward of which he had a long acquaintance with, hoping thereby to get aſſiſtance in his deplorable condition; that when he got to the river, and came to the Pill, (a place like a canal, to keep the boats in) there ſtood two women at the other ſide, who, when they ſaw him, ran and drew the boat to their ſide of the water, ſaying, "no matter what becomes of you, for you have not long to live," (he being horrid to look on and almoſt covered

with blood;) that he now went up the Pill, ſeeking a paſſage, but could find none, and returning to the boat looked wiſtfully at it, and regretted he had not in his youth learned to ſwim; that tho' it was but about two yards from him, it might as well he thought, have been a mile; that he thought however, while there's life there's hope, therefore reſolved to uſe his utmoſt ſtrength, and endeavour to get to it, ſo ventured into the water and reached the boat, contrary to his expectations in a few efforts, and got ſafe to Mr. Ogle's; that his friend the ſteward, behaved kind to him, having nouriſhed him three or four days, and procured him a paſs back to Enniſcorthy; that the paſs however, did not avail, as he was there put into priſon, where he remained ſome days; that he was afterwards brought up to Vinegar-hill, with many more Proteſtants, to end their wretched exiſtence; that all his fellow priſoners were murdered, but that he was ſpared, by obtaining a protection from an old friend in power, brother to one of the prieſts." Thus this poor old man providentially

tially eſcaped, to make the above affidavit of his ſorrowful caſe.

The following diſtreſſing account was delivered by Edward Stacy of Mangan, of whoſe veracity there can be no doubt:

"That on Saturday the 16th of June, 1798, four rebels came to his houſe, on entering of which, they fired a ſhot, and aſked why he did not repair to their camp? that he replied, he was an elderly man and inactive, and that he had a large family which required his attention at home; that they would admit of no excuſe, but after ſetting the houſe on fire, dragged him away; and being joined by another rebel, they conducted him to a large marl-hole, which was full of water, and aſked him could he ſwim? to which he replied in the negative; that they then ſaid, we will give you your choice, either to leap into the marl-hole, or kneel down and be ſhot; that he replied, hard ſentence, but that he was determined not to be acceſſary to his own death; that he hoped however, they would be

be ſo honourable as to take him to their camp, and try him according to their law, and that if there was any thing in his conduct worthy of death, he refuſed not to die; that inſtead of conſenting to this propoſal, they determined upon his death; that they led him a little farther, when one ſaid to the other, Sinnot, are you a believer? Sinnot replied in the affirmative; that he then turned to Mr. Stacy, and aſked, what do you believe in? that he anſwered, in the Lord God that made the Heavens and the Earth; that they then aſked, do you believe that the Virgin Mary is bleſſed above all other women; that he anſwered, I do; that they aſked what makes you believe ſo? that he replied, becauſe it is left upon record, "Henceforth ſhall all generations call me bleſ-"ſed;" that they then damned him, and ſaid, how do you know what is left upon record? adding, dont you know that tho' you are now alive, your ſoul is broiling in hell, and all of your ſort? that he replied, he did not believe that; that they then enquired if he went to maſs ſince the rebellion? that he anſwered in the negative, as thinking it more prudent

to

to keep away, leſt they ſhould ſay, he went thro' fear, and that he was determined never to embrace their doctrine ; then ſaid they you muſt die, to which he anſwered, I fear not what man can do unto me ; that they then ordered him to kneel down, declaring he ſhould live no longer ; that he obeyed, and was ſcarce on his knees, when Edward Sinnot, who was then one of his neighbours, went behind and diſcharged his piece at him ; that the ball entered about the ſmall of his back, and came out at the lower part of his belly ; believing they had killed him, they went on their way to the camp ; that tho' ſo badly wounded, he had preſence of mind to lie ſtill, concluding that if they returned, and perceived any ſigns of life, they would put him to death at once ; that he continued lying for about half an hour, bleeding all the while, when his wife, hearing he was killed, ran in the greateſt anguiſh of mind to ſeek for his body ; that ſhe found him on his face, and ſuppoſing him to be dead, threw herſelf upon him, and immediately exclaimed, Oh ! my dear Ned, are you alive ? that he anſwered ſoftly,

ſoftly, yes; ſhe, overjoyed, aſked if he was much hurt? a little ſaid he; that ſhe and another woman then raiſed him up, and helped him over two fields; but being weak with the loſs of blood, his limbs failed, and he could go no farther, (tho' he thought he could have walked home, if he had got up immediately after he was ſhot;) that one of the women ran for a horſe and car to convey him to the remains of his dwelling; that he was brought thither juſt with the ſigns of life, and put to bed, but with little hopes of recovery, having no medical aid; that he lay in this condition all night, ſo that by morning, he had loſt about ſix quarts of blood, in addition to what he loſt when lying on the ground; that his wife however, with a dependance on the LORD, undertook to be his doctor; that ſhe waſhed his wound, with water in which herbs were boiled, then applied a plaiſter, and thus daily for ſix weeks ſhe went on, until by the bleſſing of God a perfect cure was made."

But

But to return. Though the rebels formed a junction on the 22d of June, in the mountains between the counties of Wexford and Kilkenny, their intention was to ſeparate; for which purpoſe, they formed their forces into two diviſions; one commanded by general Roche, Edward Fitzgerald, and prieſt John Murphy, to march into the county of Kilkenny; and the other party to be commanded by Perry, prieſt Kearns, Garret and William Byrne, to occupy the mountainous parts of the county of Wicklow. For this end the party under general Roche, &c. began their march early on the night of the 22d of June, and on the next morning made their appearance oppoſite Gore's-bridge, a village on the river Barrow, in the county of Kilkenny. The forces ſtationed there, conſiſted only of one troop of the 4th dragoon guards, and a company of the Wexford militia, which prepared to ſtop their progreſs; and for that purpoſe took poſſeſſion of the bridge; the army perceiving the rebels planting their cannon on the oppoſite ſide, and fording the river in conſiderable numbers, thought it more prudent to

retreat; all the dragoons eſcaped; but 24 of the Wexford militia were taken priſoners; and eight of them being Proteſtants, were murdered on that and the following day. The intention of the rebels was now to form a junction with the Colliers, and after taking Caſtle-comber, to proceed to kilkenny on Monday the 25th.

From Gore's-bridge they proceeded through Kellymount, (plundering as they went along) to a hill five miles from Caſtle-comber, in the range of mountains called the Ridge; where they encamped that night, determining to attack Caſtle-comber on the following morning. The Proteſtants of the country being terrified at the appearance of the rebels, and knowing that if they ſtaid at home their lives would be in danger, haſtened to Caſtle-comber. About one o'clock, a troop of the 4th dragoons, a company of the Royal Downſhire militia, and a few yeomen, arrived from Ballynakill; theſe, with a troop of the Royal Iriſh dragoons, two companies of the Waterford militia, and one troop

troop of yeomen cavalry, about 250 in all, made up the entire of their military force.

The rebels after hearing maſs from prieſt John Murphy, quit their encampment, and marched towards Caſtle-comber; the military marched out of town to meet the rebels, who advanced in the moſt daring manner, and in tolerable order, with their gun's-men in the front. The engagement began between ſix and ſeven o'clock, with a ſmart fire, which was briſkly kept up on both ſides for ſome time; but the army at length gave way, and retreated to the town; the military then took poſſeſſion of the bridge, where there was a hot action for ſome time, when the commanding officer ordered a retreat. The cavalry, and ſome of the infantry inſtantly obeyed; but about 20 of the Waterford militia abſolutely refuſed; declaring, "they would prefer death "before diſhonour." On the retreat of the army, the perfidious inhabitants ſet the town on fire. The few military who diſobeyed orders, and about 30 loyaliſts of the town were all that now remained to engage the enemy,

but at this juncture major general Sir Charles Aſgil arrived, with a reinforcement of 900 men. The rebels perceiving ſuch an army, ſheltered themſelves in the woods, and fired on the military; but 18 rounds of grape-ſhot ſoon diſlodged them, when they were attacked on all ſides; and about four in the afternoon retreated, leaving upwards of 400 dead. The loſs on the ſide of the military, was very inconſiderable. For the ſafety of Kilkenny, the troops were obliged to return there that night, the loyaliſts who fled with them, could not be leſs than 600; they left the moſt of their property behind, which a party of the rebels who returned, carried off.

After the defeat at Caſtle-comber, the rebels kept hovering about the mountains, not wiſhing to remain long in one ſtation, till they collected their forces, which were very much ſcattered after the action. Having them nearly collected, they again formed their camp on the Ridge, where they remained till the evening of the 25th of June, when they left

left that ſituation, and advanced towards Kellymount and Gore's-bridge.

On the 24th, the troops in Maryborough, conſiſting of part of the Royal Downſhire militia, with their battalion guns, commanded by major Matthews; Ballyfin yeomen cavalry, and the Maryborough cavalry, both corps under the command of captain Pole, were put in motion, and marched towards the Collieries of Caſtle-comber and Donane, by order of general Sir Charles Aſgil. On the road they obſerved Caſtle-comber on fire, and advancing ſtill to Moyad, ſaw the rebels in great force on the riſing grounds above Donane; they received intelligence, that Sir Charles had that morning engaged them at Caſtle-comber, and that his force was at leaſt double theirs, but that he had for certain reaſons returned to Kilkenny. Major Matthews, thinking it rather late to attack them, fell back to Timahoe, where an expreſs arrived from Sir Charles, deſiring major Matthews, and the troops under his command to return to Maryborough. This was anſwered by an expreſs from major Matthews,

Matthews, propoſing to Sir Charles to attack the enemy the next morning, on the road from Donane, and that *he* would attack them on the road from Timahoe. Sir Charles would not agree to it, as his troops were fatigued, but left it to major Matthews to attack them if he could with ſafety, or to return to Maryborough; he choſe the former; and having made proper arrangements, purſued the rebels to Moyad the next morning, where he had laſt ſeen them; the rebels moved from this ſtation to the Ridge, to which they were followed by major Matthews, who was again diſappointed in bringing them to action, as they had marched to Gore's-bridge. The cavalry then went to Old Leighlin for intelligence, from which place captain Pole ſent an expreſs to Sir Charles, who lay in Kilkenny, informing him of what they had done, and their intention of attacking the enemy wherever they found them. Here they met with great kindneſs from Mr. Vigars, a gentleman of fortune, who ſupplied the troops with horſes and cars to carry them, as they were much fatigued, and accompanied them himſelf, giving them every

every aſſiſtance in his power. The whole arrived at Leighlin-bridge about 12 o'clock at night, and in two hours after, an expreſs arrived from Sir Charles, deſiring the troops to meet him at Gore's-bridge, at 5 o'clock the following morning. They inſtantly marched, but on the road, major Matthews received ſuch intelligence, as induced him to alter his route, in order to get between the rebels and the mountains, at the ſame time ſending an expreſs of this manœuvre to Sir Charles, who had marched with detachments of the Wexford militia, colonel Lord Loftus; Wicklow militia, colonel Howard; and ſome regular and yeomen cavalry, under the command of major Donaldſon of the 9th dragoons.

Major Matthews came in view of the rebels, advantageouſly poſted on a riſing ground, in an extenſive flat, at Kilcomney, near Gore's-bridge, and diſcharging a field-piece at them, they retired about a mile to form their line; the army purſued in column, and by the time the rebels had formed, Sir Charles attacked them on the other ſide of the hill, and being joined

joined by Major Matthews, charged them in ſuch a manner, as ſoon broke their line, when a terrible ſlaughter enſued. The troops being joined together, purſued them into the county of Wexford, leaving upwards of 1000 dead in the ſurrounding country.

When it is known that the rebel army would not have been brought into action, but for the exertions of that little corps, and when it is known that this corps purſued a large body of rebels at leaſt 5000 ſtrong, with 10 pieces of cannon for nearly 40 miles, without orders or directions from any general officer whatſoever; and that except ſome bread they got at Leighlin-bridge, not a man of them taſted food for forty-four hours, it muſt be allowed that they did their duty, and that they deſerve well of their country.

RETURN

Of the killed, wounded and miſſing, of the Troops engaged at Kilcomney, the 26th of June, 1798.

OFFICER

OFFICER KILLED.

Lieutenant Stones, Mount-Leinſter yeomen infantry.

PRIVATES.

5th dragoons, 1 horſe, miſſing.

9th dragoons, 1 ſerjeant, wounded, 1 horſe, killed.

Hompeſch's huſſars, 1 rank and file, wounded.

Maryborough cavalry, 1 rank and file, wounded, 4 horſes killed.

RETURN

Of Ordnance, Colours and Ammunition taken.

1 colours—5 four pounders—5 one pounders—4 ſwivels—a few guns, and a number of pikes which were deſtroyed as ſoon as taken; a number of ſhot of different ſizes, with a quantity of lead and moulds.

RETURN

Of Stores taken.

Black cattle, 170; Sheep, 100; Horſes 700. Total, 970. Alſo a vaſt quantity of bedding, blanketting, and wearing apparel.

General Perry, Prieſt Kearns, William and Garret Byrne, of Ballymanus, and the party under their command, remained on the county Wicklow mountains, from whence they marched to attack Hacket's-town, in the county of Carlow, early on the morning of the 25th of June. The forces ſtationed in the town, were 50 Antrim militia, Lieutenant Gardiner, —50 Upper Talbot's-town cavalry, Captain Hume,—24 Shillelagh cavalry, Lieutenants Bradwell and Taylor,—46 Hacket's-town infantry, Captain Hardy,—and 30 Coolattin infantry, Captain Chamney, a ſmall number to engage upwards of 4000 rebels, that knew not how to ſhew mercy to any perſon, who was ſo unfortunate as to fall into their hands. The town was aſſailed about 6 in the morning by

by multitudes, who got round it in ſuch a manner as made it impoſſible with the ſmall force, to defend every approach to it. Lieut. Gardiner perceiving their intention by filing off, was to ſurround him, drew his men into the barracks; in this retreat Captain Hardy fell, by which a moſt valuable life was loſt to his country and friends. The rebels purſued with loud huzzas, and ſet the town on fire. The back of the barracks was the principal ſcene of attack, and was well defended by the Rev. Mr. Magee, and a few good men who were poſted in a houſe advantageouſly ſituated on an eminence, and completely flanked the barracks. The engagement was obſtinate and bloody; the conteſt laſted without intermiſſion in the midſt of the flames, 'till between 3 and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when they drew off their force ſlowly, carrying off very deliberately many of their dead and wounded, though numbers of their bodies were thrown into the houſes while on fire. From the total want of ſhelter and proviſions, as well as the apprehenſion of a freſh attack, it was reſolved to abandon the town, and march for Tullow, 8

miles diſtant, where they arrived ſafe in the evening, and experienced every comfort the liberal inhabitants could beſtow. The diſcomfited rebels next day burned the barracks and ſtores, and laid waſte the houſes of the loyaliſts for many miles round.

RETURN

Of the killed and wounded of his Majeſty's Troops in the defence of Hacket's-town, June the 25th, 1798.

OFFICER KILLED.

Captain Hardy, Hacket's-town yeomen infantry.

PRIVATES.

Upper Talbot's-town cavalry, 4 rank and file, killed, 1 wounded.

Antrim detachment, 1 ſerjeant, 4 rank and file, wounded.

Hacket's-town

Hacket's-town infantry, 4 rank and file killed, 6 wounded.

Coollatin infantry, 8 rank and file, wounded.

Supplementary, 2 rank and file, wounded.

After this the rebels ſuffered ſeverely, being much weakened, and chaſed through different parts of the country by the army and yeomenry; however they ſtill kept in bodies, almoſt dead with hunger, and the great fatigue of running from hill to hill.

On the 30th of June, information was brought to Gorey, that the rebels in ſome force were advancing towards Carnew; a ſmall town on the borders of the counties of Wicklow and Wexford, but ſituated in the former. General Needham with a large body under his command, was encamped on Gorey-hill, and being appriſed of this circumſtance, ordered out a reconnoitring party of the Ancient Britiſh cavalry, and ſome of the yeomenry. After marching a few miles, they were joined by a party of the 5th dragoon guards, Ancient

Britons

Britons and yeomenry, under the command of lieutenant colonel Puleſton of the Ancient Britons, which made them near 150 ſtrong. As the patrole advanced, they met a woman who informed them, that the rebels were near Bally-ellis, and that they had not much ammunition. The colonel turning to his men ſwore he would cut them in pieces; and making all ſpeed, he deſcried them coming along the ſide of Kilcavan-hill. When the rebels ſaw the cavalry advancing, in ſo rapid and incautious a manner, they inſtantly left the high way, and lay down under cover of a hedge, till the army ſhould come up; having to all appearance abandoned their horſes, baggage-cars, and wounded, which they had brought from the battle of Hacket's-town. The ditch the rebels lay behind, was a very high one, to the right; the left of the road was walled, and a deep dyke between the road and it. When the patrole came up, the rebels opened a moſt tremendous fire of muſquetry on them; and being ſo ſecurely ſheltered, the cavalry could do no execution; being obliged to gallop ſtooping under cover of the hedge;

and

and not being ſufficiently cautious to avoid the cars, together with the weight and force of ſuch a body of men, rode againſt ſome of them, and overthrew them; thoſe in the rere preſſing forward, and being obliged alſo to ſtoop, could not look before them in time, nor ſuddenly ſtop, therefore tumbled one over another, horſe over horſe, whilſt ſome of the horſes feet got faſtened in the ſhafts of the cars, ſo that the road was ſtrewed with men and horſes, plunging and tumbling about. The rebels taking advantage of this confuſion ruſhed on them, piked and ſhot 25 Ancient Britons, 11 fifth dragoons, 6 Gorey cavalry, 2 Ballagh-keene cavalry, and 2 loyaliſts, who went out with the patrole, beſides wounding many. The remainder paſſed on through Carnew, and by taking another route, got ſafely to Gorey. During this tranſaction, the Wingfield diſmounted cavalry and infantry, under the command of captain Gowan, came up with the rebels, and having no particular uniform, the rebels thought they were part of their own forces, but the yeomenry ſeeing their oportunity attacked them with great

great ſpirit, killed a number of them, and made their retreat likewiſe into Gorey, without the loſs of a man. By the defeat of the patrole, the rebels acquired a ſtrength of arms and ammunition; and knowing that Carnew was in a feeble ſtate of defence, they reſolved on attacking it; but after an uninterrupted conteſt of two days, they were repulſed by its gallant yeomenry, who killed a number of them, and drove the reſt into the country. The town of Carnew was however deſtroyed.

After the defeat the rebels met with at Carnew, they fixed their encampment on a large mountain, which ſeparates the county of Wexford from Wicklow, called the White-heaps. Here they remained till the morning of the 5th of July, when two great columns of the King's troops, under the command of majors general Sir James Duffe and Needham arrived, with an intention to ſurround the hill, and make a general attack. The rebels having received intelligence of their purpoſe, moved off the hill early in the morning, but were met by Sir James Duffe's column, and after a few

few cannon ſhot retreated. Sir James purſued the flying enemy, but general Needham's column was at too great a diſtance for his infantry to aſſiſt; however, his cavalry, (which were chiefly yeomen) joined in the purſuit, which continued for twelve miles, when they were ſtopped on ſome riſing grounds; but the regiments under Sir James Duffe, coming up with their curricle guns, the rebels, after a ſhort conteſt were again put to flight, with conſiderable loſs, and diſperſed all over the country. The loſs of the army was 6 men killed, 16 wounded, and 6 horſes killed. The chief part of the enemy flew to Carrigrua-hill; but had not been there quite an hour, when they were driven from that ſtation, by the King's county militia, commanded by col. L' Eſtrange, which was at that time encamped at Ferns, about four miles from the hill. From Carrigrua, the chief part of the rebels retreated to a mountain called Slieve-buoy, near Carnew, where they formed a ſort of camp; but here they met with ſuch hardſhip, that numbers of them died with abſolute want and fatigue. Many of them deſerted the ſtandard

of rebellion, and availing themſelves of the merciful proclamation, iſſued by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, returned to their homes, to enjoy the bleſſings of that conſtitution they laboured to overturn.

Perry, deſpairing of doing any more execution in the county of Wexford, as it was now ſo ſtrong with military, directed his route to the county of Kildare, and there joined a ſtrong body of rebels under the command of Michael Aylmer, colonel of the Kildare rebel army, hoping that he could penetrate into the North of Ireland, where he expected to be aſſiſted by a numerous body. But Aylmer prevailed on him to abandon his intention of marching to the North; thinking it more adviſable to attack Clonard, (a town on the confines of the counties of Kildare and Meath, and built on the river Boyne,) as there was but a ſmall force to defend it; then march by Kilbeggan to the Shannon, and ſurpriſe Athlone; where, from its being the centre of the Kingdom, he expected great reinforcements. The plan was accordingly adopted; and

and their united forces being now about 4000, they proceeded on the 11th of July, to put their deſigns into execution.

The military at Clonard, were unappriſed of the motions of the enemy, till about eleven o'clock, when they received intelligence of their approach. Every preparation was now made; the men aſſembled, and were placed in the moſt advantageous poſitions, under the command of lieut. Tyrrell, of the Clonard yeomen cavalry. Six of the corps, including the lieutenant's ſon, (a lad only 15 years of age,) took poſſeſſion of an old turret, at the extremity of the lieutenant's garden, which commanded the road the rebels were to come. Such was the rapidity with which they advanced, that the firing actually commenced from this quarter upon their cavalry, before the entire guard could be collected, and the gate leading into the court-yard was under ſuch neceſſity cloſed, to the excluſion of ſeveral; ſo that when the lieutenant came to aſcertain his ſtrength, he found he had only 27 men, including his own three ſons, the

eldeſt of whom was only 17 years old! Such a critical ſituation, required all the coolneſs of a man innured to military dangers; and all the exertion, ſkill, and firmneſs of a veteran ſoldier. But although lieutenant Tyrrell had never ſerved in the army, his own good ſenſe ſupplied the want of experience, and his native courage furniſhed reſources adequate to the magnitude of the occaſion. He found his men as zealous as himſelf, determined to maintain their poſt, and to diſcharge their duty to their king and country; or fall in ſuch a glorious cauſe. After ſending a ſupply of ammunition to the advanced poſt at the turret, and ſtationing out-poſts, he retired into his dwelling-houſe, with the main body; from which he ſelected the beſt mark's-men, and placing them at particular windows, gave directions that they ſhould not fire without having their object covered; he had the reſt of the men ſecured behind the walls, and inceſſantly employed, in loading muſquets and carrabines for the mark's-men at the windows.

The

The firing, as has been obſerved, commenced from the turret. About 300 of the rebel cavalry, commanded by captain Farrell, formed their advanced guard, and approached the turret in a ſmart trot, without apprehending any danger. The firſt ſhot was fired by young Mr. Tyrrell, which mortally wounded Farrell; the reſt immediately diſcharged on the rebel cavalry, and threw them into ſuch confuſion, that they fled out of the reach of the firing. The rebel infantry coming up, paſſed the turret under cover of the wall; and numbers were poſted behind a thick hedge, on the oppoſite ſide of the road, from which they kept up a ſmart fire againſt the turret, but to no effect.

The infantry which had paſſed the turret, being joined by another party which came by a croſs road, (for it ſeems their plan was to ſurround the houſe, by advancing in different directions,) ſtationed a guard upon the bridge to prevent any reinforcement arriving in that direction. In a few minutes, ten or twelve of theſe guards were ſhot by the mark's-men

mark's-men from the windows ; upon which the reſt fled ; not one of the rebels appeared afterwards on the bridge, ſo that the communication with the Weſtern road, was in a great meaſure preſerved ; the importance of which, to the little garriſon at Clonard, will appear in the event of the day.

The enemy being thus defeated in their firſt onſet, in both points of attack, became exaſperated to the moſt extravagant fury, and determined on the moſt ſavage revenge. A large party contrived to penetrate into the garden by the rere, and ſome of them immediately ruſhed into the turret. The yeomen ſtationed there, were upon the upper floor; they had the precaution to drag up the ladder by which they aſcended ; the rebels endeavoured to climb up on each other, ſo as to reach the upper ſtory, but they were killed as faſt as they appeared ; others then ran pikes into the ceiling, and fired through it, but without effect ; the conflict was obſtinate and bloody, twenty-ſeven of the rebels lay dead on the ground floor ; when at length they brought a

quantity

quantity of ſtraw, and ſet the turret on fire. Two of the yeomen endeavouring to force their way thro' the ſmoke, were immediately put to death; and the other four eſcaped, by leaping from a window, 20 foot high into an hay-yard, from whence under cover of a wall which divided it from the garden, they eſcaped into the houſe.

Having ſucceeded ſo well by the effect of conflagration, the enemy ſet fire to the toll-houſe, and ſome other cabins on the left near the bridge, for the purpoſe of embarraſing and confuſing the garriſon; during this operation, they were ſeen throwing their dead into the flames, for the purpoſe of evading diſcovery. The battle had now laſted near ſix hours; about five in the evening the approach of ſuccour was deſcried from the houſe: the hopes of all were elevated, and they fought with renovated vigour.

One of the guards who had been excluded by the ſudden ſhutting of the gates in the morning, finding he could be of no uſe, repair-

ed

ed to Kinnegad; repreſented the ſituation of his friends at Clonard, upon which lieutenant Houghton, with 14 of the Kinnegad infantry, and a ſerjeant, with 11 of the Northumberland fencibles, immediately marched for Clonard; this being all the force could be ſpared. The paſs by the bridge having been kept open in the manner before related, lieutenant Tyrrell ſallied from the houſe, and ſoon effected a junction with this reinforcement. A few vollies completely cleared the roads, and having then placed the Northumberland fencibles and Kinnegad infantry, in ſuch ſituations as moſt effectually to gall the enemy in their retreat from the garden, the lieutenant himſelf undertook the hazardous enterpriſe of diſlodging them from thence.

At this time it is ſuppoſed there were 400 rebels in the garden: numbers of them were poſted upon a mount planted with old fir trees, which afforded conſiderable protection, and many lay concealed behind a privet hedge, from whence they could ſee diſtinctly every perſon who entered the garden; tho' unperceived

ceived themſelves. Lieutenant Tyrrell, at the head of a few picked men ruſhed into the garden, and was received by a general diſcharge from both parties of the enemy; no time was loſt in attacking the party behind the hedge, who being defeated, retired to the mount; here the action again became warm, the enemy appeared determined to maintain the advantage of the ſituation; and the yeomen, tho' fatigued with the heat and burthen of the day, could not think of retiring; ſix of them were badly wounded; ſtill they perſevered with the moſt undaunted courage, and ſupporting a ſteady and well directed fire againſt the mount, the enemy were at length diſperſed, and in their flight, the Northumberland fencibles and Kinnegad infantry made great havoc among them.

The victory was now complete; as glorious an atchievement as occurred during the whole rebellion; for which the gallant lieutenant Tyrrell and his men, can never be too much applauded. It was the firſt check the united army of Wexford and Kildare met with, and

proved the fore-runner of thoſe ſeveral defeats which terminated in their total diſperſion. There were 150 of the rebels killed, and 60 wounded; which, tho' accompliſhed by 27 men, will not appear extraordinary, when it is known that theſe men diſcharged upwards of 1300 rounds of ball-cartridge!

After proceeding ſome diſtance from Clonard, along the Dublin road, they turned to their right, and took up their quarters for the night, in the village of Carbery; where they poſſeſſed themſelves of the Rt. Hon. Lord Harberton's houſe, and drank wine and ſpirits to exceſs. On the morning of the 12th of July, they moved to John's-town, and from thence to the Nineteen-mile houſe. They were purſued by 60 of the Limerick militia, and 20 of the Edenderry yeomen cavalry, under the command of lieutenant colonel Gough; who, after reconnoitring the enemy poſted on a hill, attacked them, and gave them a ſignal defeat; they then fled in great confuſion, leaving all their booty of cattle, ſtores, &c. behind them.

They

They were then purſued by major general Myers, with a detachment of the Royal Buckinhamſhire militia, and ſome of the Dublin yeomenry, who drove them towards Slane, in the county of Meath. They then went off, under cover of the night, to the river Boyne, and paſſed it, but were afterwards purſued by two diviſions, under major general Wemys, and brigadier general Meyrick. The rebels again formed in a ſtrong poſition on the road to Ardee; but as ſoon as the Sunderland regiment with their battalion guns arrived, they were thrown into ſuch diſorder that they broke and fled in all directions. The cavalry and yeomenry were ordered to charge them, which they did in a gallant manner, and having fled into a bog, they were defeated and cut to pieces; a quantity of guns, pikes, &c. with two ſtand of colours were taken.

Some of the rebels who eſcaped, fled towards Ardee, in the county of Louth, the reſt retreated over the Boyne, towards Garret's-town, in the county of Meath; where they were again purſued and attacked by de-

tachments of the Fermanagh and Carlow militia; Swords yeomen infantry, and about 100 cavalry; which conſiſted of part of the Dumfries light dragoons, and three corps of yeomenry, all under the command of captain Gordon of the Dumfries. The rebels being in general mounted, captain Gordon ordered part of his cavalry to purſue them; on their advancing, the enemy diſmounted and inſtantly diſperſed; not 100 remained on the ground when the infantry came up, which were made to fly on the firſt diſcharge, and were then purſued by the cavalry. There were about 150 of the rebels killed, without any loſs on the part of his Majeſty's forces.

The rebels were now abandoned to deſpair, every man who ſurvived, thought only of providing for his own ſafety; ſome fell victims to the fate they deſerved; whilſt others tired of a rebellious life, returned home, and by means of *protections*, *were metamorphoſed into good and loyal ſubjects*, until their ſervices ſhould again be required.

Perry

Perry and prieſt Kearns made their eſcape into the King's county, and remained there but a few days, when they were taken by two of the Edenderry yeomenry; brought priſoners to the town of Edenderry where they were tried by court-martial, and executed on the 21ſt of July following. Aylmer and Fitzgerald, with 13 other rebel leaders, gave themſelves up, on condition of being tranſported, which accordingly took place. Garret and William Byrne of Ballymanus, alſo ſurrendered themſelves on the above condition; the former was tranſported, but as it was proved the latter was concerned in various murders during the rebellion, he was tried by court-martial in Wicklow, found guilty, and ſentenced to be executed; which took place in Wicklow, on the 26th of September, 1799.

Many of the rebels dreading the juſtice of their fate, were afraid to return home; ſome of thoſe joined a noted rebel named Holt, who was formerly a ſub-conſtable in the county of Wicklow, and who infeſted the mountainous part of that country, as well as many parts

of

of the county of Wexford. Several bodies of yeomenry and other military, marched frequently againſt them; and were generally ſucceſsful, wherever they could come up with theſe deſperadoes. Another party took ſhelter in the woods of Killaughrim and Monart, in the county of Wexford; while they remained there, they committed ſeveral nightly robberies and murders. At length the army was drawn from Roſs, Newtown-barry and Ferns, in order to ſurround theſe woods, which they did, and killed a number of the rebels; many of whom were found to be deſerters from ſeveral regiments of militia.

Many very barbarous and outrageous murders, were committed on the perſons of poor Proteſtants, who too ſoon returned to their dwellings, not thinking the rebels would again diſturb them. So frequent were theſe murders, and no notice being taken of them, that the yeomenry proclaimed through the different pariſhes, "that the firſt Proteſtant "that was put to death, they would ſcour the "country

" country and kill the Prieſt and 20 Papiſts, " in whatever pariſh ſuch a murder ſhould be " committed." This had the deſired effect; there were no more put to death, tho' the robberies were as frequent as ever.

Holt, like ſome of his brethren, tired of a rebellious life, ſurrendered himſelf on condition of being tranſported, which accordingly took place. Hacket, the next in command, ſtood out for ſome time, committing many robberies, but at length loſt his life in attacking a gentleman's houſe near Arklow.

Such was the activity of our ſoldiers, that in all probability the country would have been reſtored to perfect tranquility, had not the hopes of the diſaffected been again revived by the landing of a few French troops at Killalla, in the of county Mayo, on the 22d of Auguſt, 1798. On their taking poſſeſſion of the town, General Humbert diſtributed the following hand bills to the populace, declaring themſelves

themſelves to be the friends of the people, and their deliverers from oppreſſion.

" HEALTH AND FRATERNITY,

TO THE

PEOPLE OF IRELAND !

" The *great nation* has ſent me to you with a band of heroes, to deliver you from the hands of tyrants. Fly to our ſtandards, and ſhare with us the glory of ſubduing the world. We will teach you the art of war, and to deſpiſe the low purſuits of toil and induſtry ; you ſhall live on the ſpoils of war, and the labours of others. The acquiſition of wealth is the acquiſition of miſery, and the enjoyment of eaſe is inglorious. We have made all the nations we have conquered happy, by arreſting their property, by applying it to the *common cauſe*, and conſecrating it to the champions of liberty ! Property is a common right, belonging to the valour that ſeizes it.

We

We have already deſtroyed the unaſpiring tranquility of Switzerland! and the wealth, and the power, and the bigotry of Italy are no more! If then the juſtice of France has thus extended its reforming vengeance to unoffending nations, conſider with how much more rigour it will viſit you, if you ſhall ſlight its benignity. Fly to our ſtandard, and we will free you from ſpiritual as well as temporal ſubjection; we will free you from the fetters of religion, and the frauds of prieſtcraft. Religion is a bondage intolerable to free minds; we have baniſhed it from our own country, and put down the grand impoſtor the Pope, whoſe wealth we have ſacrificed on the altar of reaſon. Fly to our ſtandard, and we will break your connection with England; we will ſave you from the mortification, of ſeeing yourſelves under an invidious government, and exalt you into the rank of thoſe countries which now enjoy the benefits of French fraternity. Let not the ties of kindred, the ſeductions of eaſe, or any other unmanly attachment to the comforts of life,

teach you to neglect this friendly call of your countryman and fellow-citizen."

" KILMAINE*, LIEUT. GEN."

" LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY,
" UNION!

" IRISHMEN,

" YOU have not forgot Bantry-bay; you know what efforts France has made to aſſiſt you. Her affections for you, her deſire for avenging your wrongs, and enſuring your independence can never be impaired.

" After ſeveral unſucceſsful attempts, behold Frenchmen arrived amongſt you.

" They come to ſupport your courage, to ſhare your dangers, to join their arms, and to mix

* Lieutenant General Kilmaine, did not arrive with the French Troops.

mix their blood with yours in the ſacred cauſe of *liberty*.

" Brave Iriſhmen, our cauſe is common; like you, we abhor the avaricious and blood-thirſty policy of an oppreſſive government; like you, we hold as indefeaſible the right of all nations to liberty; like you, we are perſuaded that the peace of the world ſhall ever be troubled, as long as the Britiſh miniſtry is ſuffered to make with impunity, a traffic of the induſtry, labour, and blood of the people.

" But excluſive of the ſame intereſts which unite us, we have powerful motives to love and defend you.

" Have we not been the pretext of the cruelty exerciſed againſt you by the cabinet of St. James's? The heartfelt intereſts you have ſhewn in the grand events of our revolution—Has it not been imputed to you as a crime? Are not tortures and death continually hanging over ſuch of you, as are barely ſuſpected

of being our friends? Let us unite then and march to glory.

" *We ſwear the moſt inviolable reſpect for your properties, your laws, and all your religious opinions. Be free; be maſters in your own country. We look for no other conqueſt than that of your liberty—no other ſucceſs than yours.*

" The moment of breaking your chains is arrived; our triumphant troops are now flying to the extremities of the earth, to tear up the roots of the wealth and tyranny of our enemies. That frightful coloſſus is moulder-ing away in every part. Can there be any Iriſhman baſe enough to ſeparate himſelf at ſuch a happy juncture from the grand intereſts of his country? If ſuch there be, brave friends, let him be chaſed from the country he betrays, and let his property become the reward of thoſe generous men, who know how to fight and die.

" Iriſhmen, recollect the late defeats which your enemies have experienced from the French;

French; recollect the plains of Honſcoote, Toulon, Quiberon, and Oſtend; recollect America, free from the moment ſhe wiſhed to be ſo.

"The conteſt between you and your oppreſſors cannot be long.

"Union! liberty! the Iriſh republic!—ſuch is our ſhout, let us march—our hearts are devoted to you; our glory is in your happineſs."

Health and Fraternity,

"HUMBERT, GEN."

Thus emboldened, and unconſcious of the fate of the French, a number of the inſurgents collected in various parts of the country, avowing their purpoſe of giving every poſſible aſſiſtance to them, and of impeding by every means in their power, the operations of the King's troops. Large bodies were collecting in the counties of Kildare, Weſtmeath, and

and Longford; and ſo very ſanguinary were they, that they put on many of the churches in theſe counties, orders for the murdering of heretics. The following notice was poſted on the church door of Killaſhee, in the county of Longford, a few days after the French troops landed at Killalla.

" TAKE NOTICE,

" Heretical uſurpers, that the brave ſlaves of this iſland, will no longer live in bondage; the die is caſt, our deliverers are come, and the royal brute who held the iron rod of deſpotic tyranny, is expiring—no longer ſhall one govern four. The *old holy religion* ſhall be re-eſtabliſhed in this houſe, and the earth ſhall no longer be burthened with *bloody heretics*, who under the pretence of rebellion, (which they themſelves have raiſed) mean to maſſacre us."

" The flow'r-de-luce, and harp we will diſplay,
" While tyrant heretics ſhall moulder into clay."

REVENGE! REVENGE! REVENGE!

During

During the time the French remained in Ireland, the rebel inhabitants of that part of the county of Wexford, along the coaſt, between ſaid town and Gorey, known by the name of the *Mackamores*; thinking themſelves loyal ſubjects, from having taken the oaths of allegiance, and obtained protections, ſent the following letter to captain Fitzgerald, (then brigade major of the county of Wexford yeomenry, who had alſo raiſed ſome recruits in this part of the county,) requeſting of him, to preſent the following addreſs to major general Hunter, who commanded the garriſon of Wexford, offering their ſervices to march againſt the invading enemy.

" *To breggadeer magar Figgerald, in Waxford.*

" Plaiſe your honor as you war good enof to get the general to give us pardon and as you tould us that if there was an occaſion youd expect that weed fite for our King and country and as ever willin to be up to our word we ſend this paper about the biſneſs and if your honour ill give us leave to fite

weel

weel do every thing your honour bids us and we minded nothing elſe to morrow but to fite for the king's officers againſt the French and hopes your honour will excuſe this haſte an we wiſhed to loſe no time and excuſe our not nowing how to write to ſuch generals but if your honour will get a memoral drawn rite your honour may depend on us and put our names to it for us as in the incloſed."

" O' BRIEN,
" WALSH, and
" SULLIVAN."

" *To the general Hunter or governor of Wax-*
" *ford belonging to King George*
" *the Third.*

" We the Macamore boys was in the turn out againſt the Orrange-men and to who your noble honour gave your moſt graſous pardon for we never deſarved any other if we war let alone and being tould that the French was cumeing to take this cunttry from his Royal Highneſs the King who we ſwore to fite

fite for and in regard to our oath and to your lordſhips goodneſs in keeping the Orrangmen from killing us all weel fite till we die if your honour will give us leave and weel go in the front of the battle and we never ax to go in the back of the army your honour will ſend wid us and if we dont beat them weel never ax a bit to eat and as you gave us pardon and ſpoke to the King about us as the breggaddeer magar tould us and as we tould him weed never deceive your honour tho the black mob ſays weel turn out a bit again but weel ſhew them and the world if your honour will bid us that weel fite and wont run away from the beſt of them and if your honour will ſend down the magar that was wid us from your lordſhip afore or the honourable magar Curry or the Lord Sir James Fowler general of the middle lothin ſogers in Waxford and let them lave word at Peppers caſtle and weel march into Waxford go where your honour bids us do any thing atal to fite for your honours and weel expect to hear from your honour what weel do or if your honour will

order a ſignal to be made with a red flag weel draw up and march as good as any ſogers and as far as one or two thoughſand good ſtout boys goes weel fite for your honour to the laſt man and weer ſure all the Barneys ill do the ſame if you will give them leave."

" Signed by the deſire of all the pariſhes

" in the Mackamores."

" O' BRIEN,
" WALSH and
" SULLIVAN."

" *Auguſt* 27*th*, 1798."

Whether they were really loyal, or ſought an opportunity of joining their friends, as they called the French, the readers may judge, but their propoſal was not accepted of.

The

The loyal inhabitants of the county of Wexford of every deſcription, have ſuffered very much as to property, by the rebellion, much more than has been aſcertained. Government has been ſo humane as to take into conſideration the diſtreſſed ſituation of its ſuffering loyaliſts, and means to compenſate them for their loſſes. It appears from alphabetical liſts publiſhed by order of government, that the claims ſent in at different times prior to the 6th of April 1799, amount to £311,341,1,7; and there are many who have put in no claim whatever, for no other reaſon, than not wiſhing to inconvenience ſo generous and humane a government. Excluſive of theſe, the ſociety of Friends, (whoſe loſſes were very great,) made no application for compenſation, as there was a fund raiſed by ſaid ſociety for that purpoſe. Many families who before the rebellion, were in comfortable ſituations, are now reduced to ſcanty means, and many others, of another deſcription, who were in abject want at its breaking out, are now in affluent circumſtances.

I ſhall conclude by laying before the readers an exact copy of the confeſſion of James Beaghan, who was executed on Vinegar-hill, on Saturday the 24th of Auguſt 1799, taken before Chriſtian Wilſon, Eſq; high ſheriff of the county of Wexford, and John Henry Lyſter, Eſq. one of the juſtices of the peace for ſaid county.

"I JAMES BEAGHAN, acknowledge and confeſs, that I am guilty of the crime for which I am to ſuffer; but that I did not commit it from ill-will to the people that were murdered, but from the order of Luke Byrne *; I could not diſobey him—no perſon dare refuſe to obey the orders of the commanders. I am ſure that any perſon in command could ſave the lives of the poor; every man that was a Proteſtant was called an Orange-man, and every one was to be killed, from the pooreſt man in the country. Before the rebellion, I never heard there was any hatred between Roman-catholics and Proteſtants, they always lived peaceably together. I always found the Proteſtants better maſters and more indulgent landlords

* A commander of the rebels.

landlords than my own religion; during the rebellion, I never ſaw any one interfere to prevent murder, but one Byrne, who ſaved a man. I think all that were preſent were as guilty as thoſe that perpetrated the murders. It was thinking we were all equally guilty that prevented me from flying the country. The women were numerous, and were as bad as the men. The rebels treated the priſoners with great ſeverity, very different from the way that I have been uſed in goal. They thought it no more a ſin to kill a Proteſtant than a dog; had it not been that they were ſo ſoon quaſhed, they would have fought with each other for the property of the Proteſtants. They were beginning before the battle of Vinegar-hill. Ever ſince the rebellion, I never heard one of the rebels expreſs the leaſt ſorrow for what was done; on the contrary, I have heard them ſay, they were ſorry that whilſt they had the power they did not kill more, and that there were not half enough killed. I know that the rebels were determined to riſe if the French ſhould come; and I believe they

did

did not give up half their arms. There are guns, bayonets, and pikes hid in the country.

* "Now, gentlemen, remember what I tell you, if you and the Proteſtants are ever in the power of the Catholics again, as they are now in yours, they will not leave one of you alive; you will all go ſmack ſmooth—even them that campaigned with them, if things had gone well with them, would in the end have been killed. I have heard them ſay ſo many times."

"*Taken before us, Auguſt 23d*, 1799.

"CHRISTIAN WILSON, SHERIFF.

"J. H. LYSTER, JUSTICE P."

his

JAMES ⋈ BEAGHAN,

mark. (A Copy.)

* From this mark Beaghan ſpoke without having been aſked any queſtions, and ſpoke with an earneſtneſs and in a manner that ſhewed his ſincerity.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE

Author's Captivity,

AMONG THE

REBELS,

AND HIS MERCIFUL DELIVERANCE

OUT OF THEIR

HANDS!

ON Tueſday the 5th of June, when the army was evacuating Arklow, my mother, brother and ſiſter, went with them, reſolving to go to Dublin. (my mother and ſiſter not being able to endure the hardſhips they were called to bear, not having undreſſed for I believe ten nights, being conſtantly kept in alarm, leſt they ſhould be murdered or burned in their beds.) I told my brother, that it was much impreſſed on my mind to return home, having

having an inward perſuaſion all would be well with me; to which he replied, "the Lord di-"rect you; ſo we parted, commending each other to God. On my return, (being 12 miles from home,) as I paſſed by Hinch church, between Coolgreny and Gorey, I entered it to view the deſerted tabernacle of the Lord; and was much affected to think that both miniſter and people were obliged to fly from it. The deſolation likewiſe, which I now ſaw holding its melancholy reign through the country as I paſſed along, and the deſtruction which ſeemed to be brooding over the land in general, had ſuch a powerful effect upon me, that I could not refrain from weeping, and that abundantly. I entreated the Lord, not to deſert his church and people for ever; but to turn their captivity as the ſtreams of the South, and not to give us over into the hands of cruel and deceitful men. While reading the Pſalms for the day, (5th of June) my ſoul was much comforted; and I found alſo the firſt book of Samuel, 2d chapter, very precious; particularly the 9th and 10th verſes: "He will keep the feet of his ſaints, and the wicked

ſhall

ſhall be ſilent in darkneſs; for by ſtrength ſhall no man prevail." "The adverſaries of the Lord ſhall be broken to pieces: out of heaven ſhall he thunder upon them; the Lord ſhall judge the ends of the earth, and he ſhall give ſtrength unto his King, and exalt the horn of his anointed."—I had much comfort alſo in reading the 54th of Iſaiah; thus after leaving this place, my mind was more ſtrengthened in the Lord. This was the day on which the battle of Roſs was fought. I then proceeded as if for Gorey, when four or five perſons whom I knew not, overtook me, and ſeemed as if they would bear me company thither. I not knowing what they would do with me, when we arrived there, was reſolved to ſeparate from them if poſſible. As we drew near Gorey, I ſaw colonel Ram's houſe at Clonattin burning, and the ſmoke of it went up like the ſmoke of a furnace. My feet being ſore with walking, I ſat down as if to examine them; intending that they ſhould go on without me, which they did. Being alone, I aroſe, and turned to the left, to go home another way, not wiſhing to venture

into Gorey, as it was full of rebels. Paſſing a little cabin, a man with a green ribbon round his hat, aſked me in a menacing voice, "who I was, and where was I going." I told him without any reſerve, and aſked him what way I ſhould go to avoid the rebels; he gave me the beſt advice he could; it was well meant, but I did not like to follow it. Another neighbour of his coming up, we aſked his council: he deſired me to ſtay at his houſe till night, when I might get his horſe and go home with ſafety, as the United-men were all to be in camp after a certain hour: (I believe 9 o'clock) this I approved of, and could not but wonder at the good nature of two ſtrange men, I never ſaw before; but when night came on, I was afraid to venture, as there were people paſſing and re-paſſing all through it. The next morning I was heartily ſorry I did not go to Dublin with my family; but now I dare not venture, for the rebels were riſing in every part of the country; and I knew I would be in as great danger of being ſhot, between where I was and Arklow, as between it and home. Not knowing what might be the

conſequence

conſequence if I ſtaid in the houſe, I went out into an orchard in order to conceal myſelf during the day, being determined to go home that night, let the conſequence be as it would. When I went into the orchard, I bowed before the Lord, and prayed fervently to him to bleſs me, to keep and direct me for the beſt. While in the act of ſupplication, it was warmly impreſſed on my mind to go home in the open day, and not to be afraid of man; and that the greater danger God ſhould bring me through, the greater glory would redound to his own name. Immediately I returned to the houſe, and told them my intention, and after praying with the family, I ſet out in the name of the Lord, with my mind ſweetly ſtaid upon him. I paſſed thro' many of the rebels, ſaw a great number of Proteſtants houſes burning between me and home, and heard many ſhots firing round the country, which I ſuppoſed to be levelled at the poor inhabitants, who were eſcaping from the flames. I paſſed on however, without meeting any oppoſition, until I got within three miles of my mother's houſe; juſt then a man followed me, whom I

knew not, and called out, "where are you going young Taylor?" ordering me to ſtop. I obeyed, and thus fell into the hands of the rebels. This was on Wedneſday the 6th of June. I was then taken to Gorey, and confined in the market-houſe: at night the guards that were placed over us, tied our arms behind, and confined us to certain limits that we ſhould not paſs. The ſame evening they brought in another priſoner, whom the mercileſs wretches ſhot next morning in the ſtreet; I ſaw him fall, and was ſhocked at the ſight, not knowing how ſoon it would be my own caſe. Next day we had liberty to walk the room, our arms being untied.

The rebel camp was about half a mile from the town, on an eminence which commanded the entire country, and their numbers were encreaſing every day. My Papiſt neighbours hearing I was in confinement, came to ſee me; wiſhed me a ſpeedy deliverance and told me how to procure it; namely, to be baptized by a prieſt, and embrace the holy Roman-catholic faith, (as they called it,) and join them

in arms to fight for the cauſe of liberty; many told me I would be ſhot if I did not turn Papiſt, and made uſe of great perſuaſion to prevail upon me; I told them I was obliged to them, and doubted not but it was good nature induced them to ſpeak as they did, but I was baptized before, and had no reaſon to condemn the church of England; but if they could convince me of its errors, I would freely renounce it, and until then, they could not expect me to turn from it; to others, I ſaid, it required a little conſideration, that ſuch a thing ſhould not be done precipitately. I now found the very great neceſſity of applying to my moſt powerful friend,—the FRIEND OF SINNERS, for ſtrength ſufficient to ſtand in the evil day; it was now I began to think of the martyrs of old: I prayed for their faith, their love, and their zeal; I ſought the Lord for all their fortitude, and all their ſtrength under the croſs and in the flames, that I might be enabled to ſeal the teſtimony of my Redeemer with my blood; and I bleſs his holy name, I had a divine reſignation to his heavenly will, and for the moſt part of the time enjoyed peace and an

aſſurance

aſſurance of his favour. While priſoner here, they brought in a yeoman of the Caſtletown cavalry, whom they had juſt taken, and without allowing him more than ten minutes to call on the Lord, ſhot him in the ſtreet. Mr. Perry, the rebel commander of Gorey camp, would give him no longer time to prepare for eternity! "The mercies of the wicked are cruel."

A few days after my being taken to Gorey, they ſtript me of a ſuit of black, and gave me a ſoldier's old jacket, waiſtcoat and ſmall-clothes; they alſo took from me my hat, neck-cloth and ſhoes; and having thus plundered me, they left me to meditate on what was likely to follow. Nor indeed was it I alone that was robbed, for all the priſoners were ſerved the ſame way. Having thus ſtripped us, they led us forth to the camp to be ſhot. Providentially two days prior to this, B. B. Harvey, commander-in-chief of the rebel forces in the county of Wexford, iſſued a proclamation from Carrigburne camp, one of the articles of which was, "It is alſo reſolved, that

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any perſon or perſons who ſhall take upon him or them, to kill or murder any perſon or perſons, burn any houſe, or commit any plunder, without ſpecial written orders from the commander-in-chief, ſhall ſuffer death."

Juſt as we were ranged on our knees, and our executioners in their appointed places, with pikes and muſquets to put us all to death, a man came into the camp, with the above proclamation; which was immediately read, and proved the means, under God of ſaving our lives. Nevertheleſs we were near being ſacrificed by thoſe blood-thirſty men; being ſo enraged with diſappointment, they would hardly let us return to our priſon alive. Some they ſtabbed, at others they fired; one man received five wounds from a pike, and had three ribs broke; another was ſhot through the ſhoulder; and I being arrayed with the ſoldier's coat, was ſtruck ſeveral times, and received a ſtab in the back, and after being thus abuſed we were ordered to the guard-houſe. Bleſſed be God, I can ſay, that thro' the

the whole of this trying ſcene, my mind was given up to him, and at peace with all mankind.

I cannot aſcertain the number of rebels that were in camp it was ſo great, for they covered many acres of ground. It was diſtreſſing ta ſee no military force in the country ſufficient to engage them; it alſo diſtreſſed me to ſee their colours flying, and to hear their drums, trumpets and fifes playing, not knowing where it would end.

At night when the priſoners were about to lie down, I aſked the guards would they give me leave to pray with them, as people of every perſuaſion ſhould pray if they expected to be ſaved? to which they complied; I then prayed with them and exhorted them to keep their hearts engaged with God. The guards, tho' Papiſts were affected and ſeemed much attached to me, nor would they admit me to ſit among the priſoners any more, but made me go among themſelves, and ſent in a good character of me to their officers. God was indeed very kind to me here; for the next morn-

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ing they cut the hair off the priſoner's heads, and put pitched caps on them all; they meddled not with me; yea, even a miniſter of the church of England, who was alſo a fellow-priſoner, they ſerved the ſame way. On Saturday the 9th of June, the whole body of the rebels prepared to attack Arklow; and as they marched from the camp thro' the town, the guards thruſt the priſoners half out of the windows, that the rebels might ſee their heads ſhorn and pitched; at which they ſhouted ſo loud, that it ſeemed to pierce the very ſkies.

During my confinement, many and great were the exerciſes of my mind on the preſent times; I was frequently afraid, God was going to let the wicked looſe, to ſweep profeſſors of religion away, becauſe they were not glorifying God; and theſe thoughts occurred the oftner, in conſequence of the reports of the rebel captains, who ſtill told us they were every where victorious; tho' we found afterwards, they met with great defeats; for while priſoners we could never learn the truth. But tho' theſe thoughts occurred, ſtill I believed

the merciful God would not ſuffer his praying people to be cut off by ſuch blaſpheming, blood thirſty creatures. In the midſt of all, I was conſtantly engaged with God to ſupport me, and enable me to adorn the goſpel of our Lord Jeſus; to bleſs our gracious ſovereign, and all his forces both by land and ſea—to eſtabliſh his throne for ever, that his children, and his children's children might ſway the Britiſh ſceptre, till time ſhould be no more, and be nurſing fathers to the Proteſtant religion. I was then perſuaded, and am ſtill of the ſame opinion, that theſe Iſlands ſhall ſee ſuch days as will make us weep with ſhame, at all the mercies of the Lord; and that in a very few years there will be ſuch an increaſe of holineſs, ſuch an in-gathering of ſouls, as was never heard of; no, not from the beginning of time.

Our bed in this place was only a bruſs of ſtraw, and that beſtowed with a very contracted hand; which, notwithſtanding might have afforded ſome refreſhment, only that it was ſwarming with vermin. Our food alſo was very

very ſcanty; no man got as much in twenty-four hours, as would ſuffice for one meal; but this I ſay, they treated me with more attention than the reſt of the priſoners.

On Wedneſday the 13th, the officers came to the guard-room to try the priſoners, and any they got good characters of, were received amongſt them; but ſuch as were ſuppoſed to be averſe to the Catholics, (as they called themſelves,) or were thought to be Orange-men, were ſent to Wexford, and confined in the gaol. When my trial came on, I was in a ſhort time acquitted, and placed among thoſe that were to go to camp, and fight againſt the government. Oh! my ſoul, what a conflict hadſt thou here? Me! appointed to fight againſt that King, who always gave us liberty of conſcience; againſt that King, whom I, and the children of God ſo many times prayed for, and in whoſe proſperity my heart at that very moment exulted. In ſhort, to fight againſt my own conſcience. I could not do it, and therefore reſolved to chooſe impriſonment or death itſelf, rather than be guilty of ſuch a crime.

My heart was now much engaged with God for ſtrength to ſtand in this evil day; for I ſaw my life was at ſtake. I then conſidered, who am I afraid of? is it of man who is as graſs, and muſt die? The captain paſſing by, I aſked him what would by the fate of thoſe priſoners who were going to Wexford? his anſwer was, "it is not for you to aſk queſtions," and ſwore dreadfully he would cut my head off. I then of my own accord, ſtepped among the priſoners that were ordered for Wexford, being determined to go to gaol, let the conſequence be what it would, ſooner than fight againſt the Lord and his anointed. As ſoon as I ſtepped in among them, I felt the divine approbation of God; I can truly ſay, I then knew his will concerning me, and was exceedingly happy in my mind; though I may ſay with Paul, "I fought with beaſts after the "manner of men." But it was the Lord that upheld me, or I ſhould have ſtarted from the Croſs.

The captain that tried us, when he found that I had deſerted his ſervice, (as he called it) was very angry, and ordered me to be pinioned.

ed. The reſt of my fellow ſufferers being ſerved in like manner and bound together, two and two, we were marched in proceſſion to Oulart, 11 miles diſtant. It was near 11 o'clock at night when we arrived at the Inn, and were turned into an out-houſe like a flock of ſheep; where a little ſtraw was ſpread on the floor for us to lie on. Tho' very weary, we could not enjoy much reſt, our arms being pinioned all night. I reclined my head againſt the wall and ſlept a little, for indeed both body and ſoul were weary. Nevertheleſs, the feebleſt flame that burned on the altar of my heart, aſcended as incenſe for the King and the children of God. It may not be amiſs, perhaps, to deſcribe my dreſs and ſituation. I had on a ſoldier's worn out coat, a veſt and breeches by much too little, torn and ragged, a boot ſlipper on one foot, and a brogue ſlipper on the other; my feet of courſe were weary to the laſt degree. Being likewiſe bathed in ſweat, without a neck-cloth, and lying in an out-houſe, with the night air coming in on us, rendered my ſituation dangerous as well as diſagreeable. In the morning I was worſe,

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being almoſt congealed, the very blood in my veins was chilled, my ſtrength exhauſted, and my fortitude beginning to fail.

At ſunriſe we were ordered out to be tied together, and to proceed on to Wexford; this was diſtreſſing to me indeed, worn out with hunger and fatigue, and unable to run away, had I even the opportunity. Thus pinioned and coupled as before, we were ordered forward, having ſtill ten miles to go. There were 19 of us, beſides two officers of the Antrim militia, who had been taken priſoners at the battle of Tubberneereen, on the 4th inſt. theſe however, were permitted to travel on horſeback. When we had got about 4 miles, we were ordered to halt at the houſe of Edward Fitzgerald, (a rebel commander) to get ſomething to eat. A little food was now very acceptable, not having taken any nouriſhment from breakfaſt time the preceding day. I was here favoured with a piece of barley bread, but the reſt of the priſoners got ſtir-about and the worſt of ſmall beer. Having a little refreſhed ourſelves, we ſet out, and arrived

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in Wexford about 11 o'clock; all the windows were adorned with green; and the rebels triumphed over us, as though they had taken a great ſpoil.

On our entering the priſon, the gaoler took down our names, and then we were conducted into the back-yard. Here I waſhed my feet at the pump, which afforded me ſome relief; after which I lay down before the ſun to take a little reſt. I had not been long thus, when a gentleman who knew me, and was alſo a priſoner, brought me to his cell, and gave me part of his dinner, which I thought the ſweeteſt I had ever taſted. Another in the evening gave me ſhare of his; thus the Lord dealt kindly with me.

The gaol is a very ſtrong building; and I believe it never had ſuch a number of innocent inhabitants before. No perſon was confined here but Proteſtants! and their religion alone was their crime!!! There were men of very genteel circumſtances ſhut up in this priſon; the rebels at the ſame time doing what they pleaſed with their property. Here it was

I had

I had the hardeſt trial of all; being forty-eight hours without eating any thing, ſave potatoes and water—my bed at night was the floor. The priſon at length became ſo crouded, that the rebel committee, otherwiſe the "committee of public ſafety," thought it expedient that ſome of us ſhould be ſent to the market-houſe; for as the weather was intenſely warm, they were afraid it would breed an infection. Some may conclude from this, that they did not wiſh the death of the priſoners; in anſwer to which, I ſhall declare what I heard one of their captains ſay, "That it was their intention to keep us ſafe till they ſhould ſee the event of the war; for if victory declared in favour of the King's forces, they might hope for pardon if our lives were ſpared, but on the other hand, if they ſhould put us to death, they could expect no mercy for themſelves." Many of my fellow priſoners who were appointed for the market-houſe, were making application to the members of the committee, to be left in gaol; for the lower order of the people were ſo blood-thirſty, that they could hardly be kept by their leaders from burſting into

into the priſon, and murdering all the priſoners, who indeed looked upon their fate as inevitable. It was truly ſhocking, to hear their tumultuous noiſe at the priſon door, when ſtriving to force their way in. Was not this a time to look for a hiding place in the Son of Man? The gaol being much ſtronger than the market-houſe the priſoners would much rather have ſtaid in it, than be removed, but in this they could not be indulged, for ſome muſt go. Any perſon wiſhing to ſtay ſhould make application to William Kearney, who ſuperintended the former place of confinement. I was appointed with 47 others, to go to the market-houſe; for I did not ſeek to ſtay, knowing it conld not be worſe with me; and as for my life, I ſaw it was in the Lord's hands, and that not a hair could fall without his permiſſion. So we were brought to the market-houſe, and a guard placed over us. While here I had ſuch agonizings of mind, for the future proſperity of Zion as I never felt before.

We were now allowed plenty of ſtraw to lie on, and were better ſerved with proviſions

than in Gorey or in the gaol. At night when my fellow priſoners were preparing for ſleep, I aſked them to kneel down that I might pray with them; the guards on hearing this were ſo enraged, that they ſwore they would ſend a brace of balls through me, if I attempted it again. This menace ſo intimidated the priſoners, that they could ſcarcely be prevailed upon to join in prayer for ſome time. Nevertheleſs, they had my ſilent breathings. In the morning one man ſaid to me, "if your tongue "had been between my teeth laſt night, I "would have bit it off." I aſked him why? he replied, "you are going the way to have us "all murdered." No, ſaid I, but I am going the way to have you all preſerved, "For now "is the time to cry to the ſtrong for ſtrength." We were now given to underſtand that all the people in Wexford, and its vicinity had turned Papiſts, and that if we did not follow their example, there was no probability of our eſcaping death. In the evening one of the guards coming to the door, ordered out the methodiſt preacher; (as he called me,) I inſtantly came out, (not indeed without apprehenſions,)

henſions,) and enquired his buſineſs with me; he then told me he wanted to know what ſort of doctrine we preached—I ſpoke as plain to his underſtanding as I could, and explained repentance and remiſſion of ſins, and the impoſſibility of entering heaven without it. We were now joined by many of the guard, who wiſhed to know if I would turn Roman-catholic. I told them not, for I knew too well the liberty wherewith Chriſt had made me free, and was reſolved to ſtand faſt in it; and that if they were now going to take me to the mouth of the cannon for the truth, I would ſeal the teſtimony of my Redeemer with my blood; for thro' his grace, I would not deny *him* that never denied me. I ſaid much more, and I bleſs God for the ſtrength he gave me, which would have been the caſe, had not the Lord inclined the heart of the man who ordered me out, to aſk me ſeveral queſtions of this kind before he would take me down ſtairs for the purpoſe of ſhooting me. Juſt as I was concluding, the officer of the guard came up. It appeared to me, he thought

his men were engaged in a friendly converſation with me, for he appeared very angry, and aſked, how dare they preſume to converſe with any of the priſoners? I was then ordered in, and thus by the mercy of God eſcaped death this time alſo. Great were the trials of faith I had of this nature—Oh! how good is the Lord!

On the 19th and 20th days of the month, I thought deliverance near, (notwithſtanding I heard they were endeavouring to come and murder us in the night,) ſo I picked with a pin on the walls of my priſon, on the door and window caſes, "Salvation," and "Salvation, "oh! the joyful ſound! 19th of June, 1798," and every time I caſt my eye upon it, it afforded me much conſolation.

On Wedneſday evening, June the 20th, we ſaw a great croud of the rebels coming up to the market-houſe: we all thought there was danger near then indeed, every one made uſe of the laſt ſhift, namely prayer; even the very men that were afraid to let me pray with them, now felt the neceſſity of praying for themſelves,

themſelves, and no doubt were ſorry enough that they had not prayed more all their lives. Fearing I ſhould be taken for a military man, (as in that caſe death was certain,) I took the ſoldier's coat they gave me at Gorey, hid it under the ſtraw, and putting on a ſurtout which a friend lent me while in gaol. I knelt down to pray to God for aſſiſtance, being reſolved, not to look behind me, nor ſtir for all their calling, till they ſhould come to me and ſignify it was me they meant, and then to go without heſitating. While thus engaged with the Lord, they came in, and took away for the ſlaughter 14 of my fellow priſoners. After they went out, we enquired of the guards what they were going to do with them? they told us "to try them,"—others ſaid, "to take "them to the camp." Then they came back and took 10 more; while they were butchering theſe, a woman came in crying, and told us that they had taken ſeveral priſoners out of the gaol, piked them on the bridge and threw their bodies into the river; that they were now torturing thoſe taken from among us, and that *we* were all to be murdered in like manner.

manner. Now indeed we ſaw what was before expected; I endeavoured to impreſs on their minds the neceſſity of making good uſe of the little time they had. I then prayed earneſtly with them, and all ſeemed reſigned to the will of God. They ſoon came back again. I was filled with a kind of indignation which I cannot deſcribe, (but not anger,) and told the guards that the blood of the innocent would cry to Heaven's eternal throne for vengeance, and that the Lord would ſurely ſcourge them with the rod of his wrath, and make them as a monument of vengeance, and a proverb to the generations yet unborn. They inſtantly withdrew. I believe a conviction of their guilt ſmote them. The executioners then came in and took out 18 more! I being one of the number, a young man laid his hand on my ſhoulder, and deſired me to come along with them; I obeyed, but before they took us out, I reaſoned with them ſtrongly on the inhumanity and wickedneſs of murdering harmleſs men in cool blood, merely becauſe they were not of their perſuaſion. It was to no purpoſe, we were led out, and marched

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to the bridge, two and two, guards before and behind, and on each ſide. They were teaſing us on the way to bleſs ourſelves—they would ſhout thro' the ſtreets as we paſſed on, "why "dont you ſay your prayers? bleſs yourſelves "before the Devil gets you—you will be in "Hell's flames in a few minutes." One of them came to me, and aſked me "can you "bleſs yourſelf?" I replied not, but I can pray to God to bleſs me, and you can do no more. Some of the priſoners aſked for the clergyman, as they wiſhed to ſee him before they died; the guards told him they ſhould get him. I not thinking the meant they prieſt, and recollecting that there was an Engliſh clergyman in gaol, a Mr. Wilſon, and wiſhing to receive the ſacrament, told them I would wiſh to get a miniſter alſo. Hereon ſeveral of them ſhouted out, "oh! boys, here is "Taylor the preacher from Ballycanow wants "a miniſter. Pike him, pike him, at any "rate," was inſtantly the cry. They would hardly let me go to the bridge, they ſo thirſted for my blood. When we arrived there, we kneeled down to commend our ſouls to God;

they

they piked 6 in the moſt horrid manner, and threw them over the bridge. One man in his torture jumped into the river, where they ſhot him. While theſe were torturing, I thought I would ſurely be one of the next, as there was only *one* between me and death, when the Lord appeared in our behalf, by ſending Mr. Corrin, pariſh prieſt of Wexford, to reſcue us. When he came to the place of execution, he exclaimed, "oh! what is it "you are doing, deſiſt from ſhedding inno- "cent blood, there has been too much of that "already: you have loſt your cauſe, and for "God's ſake ſhed no more." On which theſe inhuman monſters exclaimed, "They are all "bloody Orange-men, we will pike them, for "this is the way they would ſerve us, if they "had us in their power." Mr. Corrin then took off his hat, and entreated them to deſiſt, but in vain. I thought he would not be able to prevail. When he ſaw their determination, he requeſted them to kneel down, and pray for the ſouls of the poor priſoners, before they would kill any more of them; they obeyed, and when he had got them in the attitude of devotion,

devotion, now ſaid he, " Pray that the Lord " Jeſus, may give you to feel that mercy for " them, which you expect from him, in the " hour of death, and in the day of Judgment." They at length conſented to ſpare us a while longer. He then led us away, and as he was coming by me, I ſtood up and kiſſed his hand, ſaying, " Bleſſed are the merciful for they " ſhall obtain mercy." On our return we met that tyrannical rebel, Thomas Dixon, who anxiouſly deſired to know why we were brought back? Mr. Corrin told him, he had begged us off for the preſent. Dixon was very much diſpleaſed with Mr. Corrin, and intimated that he would yet have ſatisfaction of us every man.

In this critical juncture, as our church moſt beautifully deſcribes, " The peace of God " which paſſeth all underſtanding," kept my heart and mind in the love and knowledge of God, and the bleſſing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghoſt, was with me of a truth. I thought long before

this I ſhould hear the Harpers harping with their Harps, and ſee the face of him whom my ſoul loveth, without a veil between; but my warfare in this vale of tears is not yet over, therefore I need the prayers of the children of God, to keep me without ſpot or blemiſh againſt the appearing of the Son of Man.

When we were brought back, I wept from the fulneſs of my heart, and prayed for them notwithſtanding their thirſting after my blood. The Lord was my deliverer; but the poor old man that could have bit my tongue off, was ſhot on the bridge, the memorable 20th of June. Out of the 48 of us that were in the market-houſe, only 18 were left; and as they did not think it worth while to keep a guard over ſo few, they brought us back to the gaol; but took the greateſt care to have the door and yard well ſecured. I paſſed a very reſtleſs night, till at the dawn of day, when to my ſurpriſe, I felt the floor and foundation of the priſon ſhake; ſtarting up to know what it could be, I heard the roaring of cannon. I

concluded

concluded there must be an engagement, and knowing that the rebels had many field-pieces, I was greatly afraid it was only a few soldiers who had come from Ross, or elsewhere to engage them; and that they would be driven back by the infinitely superior number of the enemy. The doors being locked and bolted, I could not get as I desired to one of the upper cells, where a few religious friends were confined, that we might wrestle with the Lord in prayer for the success of his Majesty's arms. But tho' I could not get among them, I prayed by myself, while those that were in the cell with me, were fast asleep. I afterwards heard that my friends in the upper cell, on hearing the cannon, betook themselves to prayer also for a blessing on his Majesty's arms. Our lives were now in jeopardy every moment, for all the town was in the greatest confusion, and many of the most blood-thirsty, wanted to murder us (before the arrival of the army) for their various defeats; but tho' they raged, God sat above the water-floods, and confounded their devices.

I cannot deſcribe the feelings of my ſoul, when news came in that the rebels had retreated, that the King's army were coming into town, and that the Engliſh colours were hoiſted at the quay. I could not paint the tranſports of the people that were liberated. There were the moſt delightful ſcenes, and the moſt feeling I ever ſaw; young women coming into priſon, embracing their fathers, brothers, friends, and all weeping together for joy. It could not but affect me—it appeared to be ſo ſolemn a time, ſo ſacred, and acceptable in the ſight of the Lord.

About five in the evening, I believe the army came in, opened our priſon doors, and ſet us free. Now we taſted the ſweets of freedom, and we gave them a hearty cheer; then went to the houſe of Mr. William Gurley, where a few of the moſt ſerious in town, aſſembled and ſung:

1

I'll praiſe my Maker while I've breath,
And when my voice is loſt in death,
Praiſe ſhall employ my nobler powers,
My days of praiſe ſhall ne'er be paſt,

While

While life and thought, and being laſt,
Or immortality endures.

2

Happy the man whoſe hopes rely,
On Iſrael's God, he made the ſky,
And earth and ſeas with all their train:
His truth for ever ſtands ſecure,
He ſaves the oppreſs'd, he feeds the poor,
And none ſhall find his promiſe vain.

3

The Lord pours eye-ſight on the blind,
The Lord ſupports the fainting mind,
And ſends the labouring conſcience peace:
He helps the ſtranger in diſtreſs,
The widow and the fatherleſs,
And grants the priſoner ſweet releaſe.

4

I'll praiſe him while he lends me breath,
And when my voice is loſt in death,
Praiſe ſhall employ my nobler powers:
My days of praiſe ſhall ne'er be paſt,
While life, or thought, or being laſt,
Or immortality endures.

We then kneeled down and returned thanks for our delivery, and afterwards we went out about the town. I and two more by Lord Kinſborough's directions, took up all the arms, guns, ſwords, piſtols, bayonets and pikes, in the Southward of the town; whilſt his Lordſhip ſent others to the North, Eaſt and Weſtwards to bring in the reſt; and the next morning, we got many pikes, the handles of which we broke and burned.

Thus by the bleſſing of God our delivery was wrought and obtained on the 21ſt of June 1798. On Sunday the 24th, I went to church, and once more offered my praiſes in the ſanctuary of the moſt High; the morning prayer and the Pſalms were very applicable to the time; the congregation wept much before the Lord our God, in gratitude for their return to his houſe, from which they had been exiled three weeks and three days.

Now, Oh! Lord God moſt holy, Oh! God moſt mighty, moſt gracious and merciful Father, let thy divine bleſſing reſt on theſe nations—let thy word run and be glorified amongſt

amongſt us, and make us a church and people whom thou wilt delight to bleſs. Bleſs all great men, and make them good men; and all poor men, and make them holy. Make us all faithful ſubjects to our King, and he and us faithful unto thee, and bring good out of this evil, for Jeſus ſake. AMEN.

Dublin,
18*th of July*, 1798. } GEORGE TAYLOR.

APPENDIX.

Captain Ogle was not preſent at the council of war held in Wexford, as mentioned in the firſt edition of this work. (page 57) He headed his men at one of the barriers in John's-ſtreet, where he had the command of a batallion gun; nor did he know the army had evacuated the town, till one of the inhabitants had brought the intelligence. He then marched his corps to Duncannon-fort; here their courage, military diſcipline, and good conduct were ſuch, as gained them the eſteem of the whole garriſon, and they received the title of "Ogle's Loyal Blues," from General Fawcit, who commanded.